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FOREIGN MINISTRY NEWS CONFERENCE ON ARMS PROPOSAL

LD022314 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1955 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Special program on 2 March news conference at USSR Foreign Ministry held by Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs; Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff; and Viktor Karpov, chief of the Arms Limitation and Disarmament Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; when not read by unidentified announcer, journalists' questions delivered in vernacular with superimposed Russian translation; video shows panelists seated at table in front of journalists, cutting alternatively from panel to audience -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Announcer] Answering a question from a correspondent of the Japanese paper SANKEI SHIMBUN about why the Soviet leadership has decided to single out the issue of medium-range missiles from the set of issues at the Reykjavik talks, Comrade Bessmertnykh said:

[Bessmertnykh] In Reykjavik and after, in the political contacts and at the Geneva talks themselves, the Soviet side proceeded from the need, desirability and expediency of resolving the whole package of matters. The logic of the interconnection between these issues was explained clearly and convincingly enough. It continues to be valid. At the moment we consider this is the very best way of resolving all problems. However, recently a number of circumstances have appeared to which the Soviet leadership has paid attention.

The Soviet leadership examined this matter from a broad point of view, in the context of the common international desire and the mood of the public for headway to be made on these matters, the growing anxiety in the world, as well as the dangerous, alarming situation arising in Geneva. Since from all the problems, and there are four main ones making up this package of matters, the problem of medium-range missiles lends itself most readily to resolution -- for its parameters have been agreed upon for all intents and purposes -- a decision has been taken to open the door to accords by coming to an agreement upon possible future accord on medium-range missiles.

I want to stress that the possibility of resolving the problem of medium-range missiles does not cancel the logical, mutually penetrating [vzairmnopronikayushchyaya] linkage existing between the problem of resolving a radical reduction in strategic offensive weapons and resolving the matter in the Politburo, which Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev referred to, was guided first and foremost by the high degree of responsibility for the present situation. Such boldness, realism and political adherence to principles lay at the basis of the major proposal the Soviet Union put forward.

[Announcer] A question from a correspondent from the Belgium paper DRAPEAU ROUGE: What is the situation at the Geneva talks? Will the present proposal really open new prospects and will headway be possible on the matter of strategic missiles as a result of this proposal? Comrade Karpov, chief of the Arms Limitation and Disarmament Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs answers:

[Karpov] Those discussions that have taken place to date in Geneva on the issue of reducing strategic, offensive weapons, bearing in mind also the task of scrapping them altogether, do not as yet provide a basis for saying that right now is the moment for an easy resolution of all matters under discussion there. However, on a practical basis from the whole course of the discussions in this round of the talks, it becomes increasingly obvious that the U.S. side would like generally to bring down the whole problem of scrapping offensive weapons only to a 50 percent reduction, only to this.

A whole range of questions is also being exposed which are complicating the achievement of accord even on a 50 percent reduction. It is still the position from which the United States had acted both at the previous rounds and before Reykjavik a position in relation to establishing a whole system of sub-levels for strategic offensive weapons by the end of the first stage of reducing them, sub-levels which are being proposed artificially, reckoning on breaking the structure of Soviet strategic weapons to the benefit and advantage, the unilateral advantage of the United States. Apart from this, there are serious doubts about the readiness of the United States to solve the question of long-range sea-based cruise missiles, although in principle accord was reached in Reykjavik on this account on the need to seek such a solution. Even this is not the main thing. The main thing is that the reduction of strategic offensive weapons and the elimination of them depend on whether accord is or is not reached concerning the prevention of the arms race in space. On this question there is no progress at the negotiations. The U.S. side has both blocked a solution of this question and is continuing to block it. It is no secret that the U.S. side on 7 February at the Geneva talks officially proposed to be guided by the so-called broad, or extended interpretation of the ABM Treaty, which, if such an interpretation is adopted, means in essence that the United States would receive the right to do anything it wants to create [sozdaniye] its, to implement [realizatsiya] its Strategic Defense Initiative program, by carrying out the creation [sozdaniye] and testing of space-based ABM systems and elements of them. It is clear that such an interpretation of the ABM Treaty basically does not correspond either to the spirit or letter of that treaty, and is an attempt to legalize the U.S. SDI program, which is incompatible, with the provisions of the ABM Treaty. This is the main difficulty at the talks.

[Announcer] Correspondent from Czechoslovakian radio: In connection with the fact that the Soviet Union has taken a number of steps in the area of arms limitation including on medium-range missiles, the question arises -- will not this have a negative effect on the defense capability of the USSR and of its allies? The answer is given by Marshal of the Soviet Union Akhromeyev, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, first deputy minister of defense of the USSR.

[Akhromeyev] In the struggle for peace, a reduction in and elimination of the nuclear threat for the peoples of the Soviet Union and for all other peoples, our country is making certain compromises, including unilateral steps. You are aware that for a year and a half we have been observing a moratorium on nuclear tests and removed some of our SS-20 missiles from operational duties. In other words, the Soviet Union is proving not just by words and not just by its proposals, but in deeds, its constructive nature and its good will. The U.S. Administration, though, makes no positive steps in reply. It continues to spiral the arms race. In the political aspect the United States by so doing is exposing itself to the whole world as instigators of the arms race and as a source of the threat of war.

All the measures which we proposed at the talks are being thoroughly discussed and analyzed by the leadership of our party and state with the involvement of military leaders, too. Here possible changes in the military-political situation and the potential opportunities of our state and of our allies are weighed. The extent of unilateral steps and compromise proposals is being determined. The Soviet leadership constantly retains the problem of the security of its own country and that of our allies and universal security at the center of attention. The security of our country and that of our allies is a reliable one. The Soviet Armed Forces and the armed forces of our friends are in a state of preparedness, guaranteeing a rebuff to any aggressor.

[NHK correspondent] A correspondent of the Japanese NHK Television company: How can one tie up the new Soviet proposal on medium-range missiles with the prospects of a meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan?

[Bessmertnykh] The Soviet Government has just submitted a very important proposal which opens up possibilities for solving not only the problem of medium-range missiles, but also other questions which are being tackled by our delegation in Geneva. Understandably, we do not yet know what the results of an examination of this and other key issues at the Geneva talks will be. That is why today, here and now, the question which was asked about a summit meeting is probably premature. Nevertheless, it is well known that the Soviet Union has been and continues to be in favor of summit meetings being held and that such meetings should be substantial, serious and rich in content. In this context we will analyze the situation which will emerge, first and foremost, around questions concerning the problem of security. By this I mean the problems being examined at Geneva.

[Correspondent] A correspondent of the West German newspaper KOLNERSTADTANZEIGER: Could you assess the reaction to the new proposal in various Western capitals?

[Bessmertnykh] If one may summarize the reaction in the world to the new Soviet initiative, then it is a positive one. Even Western news agencies, replying to the same kind of question, are saying -- this information has just come in -- in the West the Soviet leader's initiative has been received positively. Indeed, we already have official statements from a number of governments in Western Europe, the United States, and certain other coutries, which express the hope that the new Soviet proposal will open up the possibility for reaching a practical accord which, in turn, will enable remaining problems which perplex the world to be solved.

Of course, and we should expect this, we also hear the voices of those who object to the possibility of solving the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe. For example, General Rogers, the outgoing commander in Chief of the NATO Armed Forces, and other people like him are saying that: We have always heard that from them. The overwhelming response and reaction from both government and -- especially -- public circles is very positive and we, naturally, find satisfaction in this.

[Announcer] Replies to other questions by journalists were also given.

Further Reportage

LD021854 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] On 2 March at the press center of the USSR Foreign Ministry a news conference was held for Soviet and foreign journalists in connection with the statement by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee of 28 February. [passage omitted]

Later, replies were given to questions from the correspondents. A question from the correspondent of the American ABC television company for Marshal Akhromeyev: How many SS-20 missiles will be dismantled? Will all missiles targeted on Europe be dismantled?

[Akhromeyev] "I must give extremely specific information: If an agreement is concluded on the total elimination of U.S. medium-range missiles deployed [razvernutye] in Europe, and of Soviet missiles also deployed [razvernutye] in Europe, 243 SS-20 missiles will be dismantled; I repeat, if in turn the Pershing-2 and U.S. cruise missiles deployed [razvernutye] in Europe are fully dismantled. Since we are in favor of the missiles being dismantled fully, this means there will be no other medium-range missiles in Europe, on the territory of Europe, either belonging to the Soviet Union or to the United States. In Asia the SS-20 missiles will be reduced to such a quantity as to ensure that there will remain on them no more than 100 warheads."

[Announcer] A quesion from the NOVOSTI correspondent. The West talks about the superiority of the Soviet Union in the sphere of conventional weapons. What can you say on this point?

[Akhromeyev] "I must, whether I like it or not, link this question with the so-called Soviet military threat, which many leaders of the NATO countries and unfortunately the mass media of those countries, are using to frighten their peoples. This has been done over a period of many years now, although there does exist in Europe a military balance in conventional arms and armed forces. This balance exists in the numbers of armed forces of the Warsaw Pact states and of the NATO states. Here the talance is, as they say, virtually absolute. In weaponry there are differences in certain sorts and types of arms. Armed forces are formed both in each military alliance, and in each state in relation to the conditions in which the state and military alliance are living. So, the states of the military alliance of the NATO bloc in Europe have more antitank weapons, much more than the Warsaw Pact; more strike aircraft -- fighter-bombers and bomber aircraft. The Warsaw Pact has more tanks, more fighter-interceptors. All these quantitative relationships, if one takes them and examines them on a large scale, give an approximate equality of military forces. We are ready for negotiations, ready for negotiations. We are ready in negotiations to set out figures on the numbers both of our armed forces, and those figures which are known to us on the armed forces of the NATO states. The other side does not consent -- for almost a year now it has failed to consent even to begin such negotiations. The questions arises: What therefore is the basis for talking of military superiority of the Warsaw Pact in Europe, which in fact does not exist in nature?

[SANKEI SHIMBUN correspondent, in Russian] "The Japanese paper SANKEI SHIMBUN. Please tell us what is the main reason why the Soviet leadership has decided to separate the question of medium-range missiles from the package of questions?

[Bessmertnykh] "In Reykjavik and afterwards, in the political contacts and at the Geneva talks themselves the Soviet side proceeded from the need, desirability and expediency of resolving the whole package of matters. The logic of the interconnection between these issues was explained clearly and convincingly enough. It continues to be valid. At the moment, we consider this is the very best way of resolving all problems. However, recently a number of circumstances have appeared that the Soviet leadership has paid attention to, primarily the loud and clear calls at the Moscow forum to resolve this matter, and not only at this forum. The second and very important reason -- I am not listing them in order of importance, I am just presenting them in the form of a list -- is the situation that began to take shape in Geneva. Deadlock loomed ahead once again. The smell of naphthalene that we used to talk about before Reykjavik could be felt. The U.S. delegation conducted talks on all the basic issues, sometimes for outward appearance, and sometimes only on the most petty technical aspects, so to speak.

"On the issue of the medium-range missiles the behavior of the U.S. delegation was simply incomprehensible, that is to say it was not apparent whether this delegation had instructions to behave this way or whether it was just behaving this way of its own accord, but it did not even agree, so to speak, to recognize as one texts that were absolutely identical down to the last comma. Therefore, the Soviet leadership examined this matter from a broad point of view, in the context of the common international desire, and the mood of the public for headway to be made on these matters, the growing anxiety in the world, as well as the dangerous situation, the alarming situation arising in Geneva.

"Since of all the problems -- and there are four main ones making up this package of issues -- the problem of medium-range missiles lends itself most readily to resolution, because its parameters have been agreed upon to all intents and purposes, and I have cited today a quote from the pronouncements of the U.S. secretary of state on this score -- I could cite even more -- a decision has been taken to open the door to accords through coming to an agreement upon a possible future agreement on medium-range missiles.

"So this is a political issue and a security issue at the same time. Finally these issues have to be resolved specifically. We must not allow the deadlock to continue, particularly today."

[Announcer] Answers were given to other questions from journalists as well.

Bessmertnykh on Proposal

PM031157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

["Paving the Way to Accords. Press Conference at USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] Moscow 3 Mar -- On 2 March there was a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center in connection with CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev's 28 February statement.

Taking part were A.A. Bessmertnykh, USSR deputy foreign minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; and V.P. Karpov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Administration for Arms Limitation and Disarmament Problems.

A.A. Bessmertnykh made the following statement:

The Soviet leadership made a decision of cardinal importance with the aim of speedily taking a real step towards the complete deliverance of Europe from nuclear weapons. On 28 February Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, announced a new major initiative of the Soviet Union aimed at resolutely advancing the talks on nuclear and space weapons. The USSR offers the United States:

"First, to conclude without delay a separate agreement on the total abolition of medium-range missiles in Europe and their drastic reduction -- to 100 warheads -- in the Asian part of the USSR and in U.S. national territory. In other words, this problem is being separated from the range of issues discussed at the Geneva talks;

Second, to start immediately talks on operational-tactical missiles with the clear goal of reducing and totally eliminating missiles of this class."

"In addition, the Soviet Union has stated that it will withdraw from the GDR and Czechoslovakia by agreement with the governments of those countries operational-tactical missiles with an enhanced range as soon as an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe is signed. The above operational-tactical missiles are known to have been deployed by the USSR in those allied countries as a countermeasure to the introduction of American Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

The Soviet leadership, proceeding from the interests of strengthening the security of our country, that of our allies and European and international security, has thus demonstrated anew its political will for real steps towards nuclear disarmament and displayed a high sense of responsibility for the fate of peace."

It is to be hoped that the American leadership will at long last join in that peaceful enterprise, a search for accord on the security of nations, including the American people, and, saving efforts now made to create artifical barriers at the talks and engage in rhetoric on the misinterpretation of the ABM Treaty, get down to real business. The world is living through a crucial moment, people's worries keep growing and it is time to stop intrigues around nuclear disarmament.

The Soviet side proceeds from the assumption that nuclear disarmament is quite real politics. Reykjavik demonstrated this fact.

The Iceland meeting cleared the way for efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament, freed the talks from an accumulation of trivia and stereotyped approaches and opened the door to a new age. The U.S. leadership, however, stopped on the threshold and backed up."

"At subsequent rounds of the talks we were upholding and continue to uphold the possibility of resolving the entire range of issues -- outer space, strategic offensive weapons, medium-range missiles and a total nuclear test ban -- in their entirety, thus ensuring the harmonious process of strengthening international security at progressively lower levels of armed confrontation.

This approach remains preferable today as well. However, since the Geneva talks have run into the danger of becoming deadlocked anew, because of the position of the American side, the USSR has agreed to seek a solution to the problem of medium-range missiles in the first place. In addition, this question lends itself to solution easier than the others today."

Secretary of State George Shultz said on October 17 last year that "there was no reason which could prevent a competent agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces from being achieved on the basis of what the two leaders had told each other." Since there is no reason not to conclude such an agreement, it should be concluded, and without delay.

The Soviet offer gives a pragmatic chance for it because, in addition to everything else, it takes into consideration the fact that we were told after Reykjavik that the inclusion of the problem of medium-range missiles in the total complex of tasks at the Geneva talks made accord more difficult to achieve. Well, now those who believed it -- and we heard such views from Washington and European capitals -- should show us that they were sincere in their intentions to advance towards accord."

"The Soviet proposal on medium-range missiles does not push to the sidelines, let alone remove from the agenda, the question of substantial reductions in and eventual elimination of strategic weapons. Agreement to this effect will be possible given a decision not to deploy weapons in space since the two issues are organically interrelated.

We expect from the United States a concrete positive reply to our proposal on medium-range missiles.

We hope that the new important initiative made by the USSR will encourage the U.S. to take reciprocal constructive steps on the entire range of nuclear and space weapons, A.A. Bessmertnykh said in conclusion.

The press conference participants answered journalists' questions.

PRAVDA: 'HISTORIC CHANCE' OFFERED BY GORBACHEV

PM021930 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Historic Chance Not To Be Missed. Our Country's Important New Initiative"]

[Text] On 28 February a statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was made public announcing that the Soviet Union is offering to single out the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe from the complex of issues, to conclude a separate agreement on it, and to do so immediately. This decision is yet another major step toward implementing the Soviet program for a nculear-free world put forward at the beginning of last year.

The peoples of the world are experiencing a crucial period in their development. The mind of man has made a great discovery -- the atom has begun to serve society. There are still forces in the world that would like to turn this discovery against mankind. [paragraph continues]

Madmen in the imperialist camp are nurturing plans for unleashing nuclear war. Moreover, by expediting the creation [sozdaniye] of components of space strike weapons, they would also like to turn outer space into an arena for nuclear war.

Common sense refuses to tolerate this prospect or to accept the logic of mankind's suicide. The CPSU and the Soviet state, which operate in close alliance with the fraternal parties and the socialist community countries, most fully reflect in their policy the peoples' desire for peace and progress.

On 15 January 1986 the Soviet Union presented mankind with a document of historic importance -- a realistic and specific program for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction. The CPSU and the Soviet state are firmly convinced that in the nuclear missile age questions of the security of states and peoples must be raised in a fundamentally different way from before. Nowadays you cannot attempt to ensure your own security at the expense of others. The new political thinking leads to the only correct conclusion: In our time the security of the planet and the survival of mankind can be ensured only through the joint efforts of all states and peoples. True security is now achieved not by weapons but by political means.

Step by step the Soviet Union, supported by other peace-loving countries and the forces of reason and good will in the world, is paving the way for building a nuclear-free and nonviolent world. Our country tirelessly puts forward new peace initiatives, encapsulating in them the peoples' peace-loving aspirations.

The basis exists for implementing the step that has now been announced by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Back at the Soviet-U.S. summit in Reykjavik virtual agreement was reached on the question of medium-range missiles in Europe. It was agreed that over the next 5 years the Soviet Union and the United States would eliminate all their medium-range missiles in Europe. It was agreed that over the same period the number of Soviet missiles of this class in the Asian part of our country's territory would be reduced to 100 warheads on the understanding that the United States could keep a similar number of medium-range missile warheads on its national territory.

As soon as an agreement on eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe is signed, the USSR is prepared to withdraw from the GDR and the CSSR, by agreement with those countries' governments, the enhanced-range operational-tectical missiles deployed there was a countermeasure to the deployment of the U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Europe. As for the other operational-tactical missiles, the USSR is prepared to immediately embark on talks with the aim of reducing and totally eliminating them. The USSR is placing appropriate proposals on the negotiating table at the Geneva talks with the United States on nuclear and space arms.

While it is singling out the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Government still regards it as an extremely important matter to reach an agreement on substantially limiting and then eliminating strategic arms in organic interconnection with a decision on not allowing the deployment of weapons in space.

As is well known, the Geneva talks are effectively marking time. There is just one reason for this: The U.S. Administration has retreated from what was achieved in Reykjavik. The accords on the whole range of questions discussed in the Icelandic capital are being sabotaged. [paragraph continues]

What are prevailing are narrow egotistical interests, a refusal to abandon the gamble on military technical superiority, and illusory hopes of dashing ahead, primarily via space, which is what Washington's notorious "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty is designed to assist.

Some people are attempting to pin the responsibility for the existing situation at the talks on the Soviet Union, claiming the talks would get moving if the USSR singled out the question of medium-range missles from the package of proposals submitted in Reykjavik. For the sake of the noble cause of nuclear disarmament, the Soviet Union has done this. The ball is in the U.S. court, and the U.S. court alone.

There is a real opportunity to rapidly free our European home from a considerable proportion of its nuclear burden. The realization of this opportunity would mean a real and major step toward the subsequent complete liberation of Europe from nuclear arms.

The world can see that the CPSU and the Soviet state are guided by the consciousness of lofty responsibility to mankind. The USSR persistently seeks mutually acceptable solutions in the interests of building a nuclear-free world. The foreign policy course formulated by the 27th party congress is being consistently implemented.

The nuclear militarists and the military-industrial complex are trying to assure the peoples that nuclear disarmament is infeasible. Not true! The talks in Reykjavik showed nuclear disarmament is a realistic matter. In the Icelandic capital the parties to the talks were virtually just a step away from agreement on a whole range of decisions that, taken together, would have meant a deep breakthrough in the front of the nuclear danger. "This," the statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee says, "is the greatness and the tragedy of Reykjavik. Its greatness because an attainable prospect of a nuclear-free world opened up. Its tragedy because powerful forces opposed the agreements, remaining captive to strong-arm nuclear thinking."

The tragic aspect of Reykjavik can and must end. The highest interests of mankind imperatively demand this. The recent internal forum in Moscow showed the peoples' strengthening desire to free the planet from the nuclear burden.

The large-scale new initiative launched by our country is approved and supported by the Soviet people. It is meeting with a broad positive response among the peoples of Europe and other continents, who see it as yet another act of good will by the Soviet Union.

There is an historic chance to solve the problem of nuclear disarmament. This chance must not be missed!

VARIED REACTION TO PROPOSAL FOR SEPARATE TREATY

Nunn: 'Highly Positive'

LD010913 Moscow TASS in English 0804 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 1 TASS -- President Reagan has now an opportunity to conclude a history-making agreement in the field of arms control not only as regards medium-range weapons, but also as regards strategic weapons, said Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Arms Services Committee. Speaking in a CBS television interview, he pointed out that, in his opinion, the USSR's proposal that a separate treaty be concluded on medium-range nuclear missile in Europe is a highly positive one.

Nunn noted that in his opinion, much progress could be made in that field. Everything necessary for that is there, and it takes only serious talks.

Rogers Statement 'Discordant'

LD030729 Moscow TASS in English 0631 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] Brussels March 3 TASS -- American General Rogers, who resigns from the post of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe in the middle of this year, made an overtly militaristic instigative speech at the Belgian Royal Institute of International Relations last night.

Rogers, who is one of the initiators of the deployment of American "Pershing-2" nuclear missiles and cruise missiles, imposed upon Western Europe, asserted that allegedly the Soviet Union-proposed undelayed elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe was contrary to the interests of the North Atlantic bloc, that allegedy consent to the Soviet proposal would negatively affect Western security.

Rogers' statement was discordant with the favourable response of the overwhelming majority of West European countries to the USSR's new peace proposals on disarmament.

Moscow Notes World Reaction

LD021306 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0350 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] [Announcer] The main topic of reports coming from abroad is the new Soviet initiative put forward in Comrade Gorbachev's statement on Saturday. Striving to break the deadlock over the problem of nuclear weapons, the USSR has proposed to separate the issue of medium range missiles in Europe from the package of initiatives we made in Reykjavik. The USSR has proposed concluding a separate agreement on these missiles, and to do this without delay. Commentator Vladimir Pasko reports on the world's intitial reaction to this proposal.

[Pasko] The USSR's new initiative has given rise to an exceptionally broad flood of commentaries and statements. The fact that the governments of a number of countries considered it necessary to express their attitude to it even before the start of the working week bears witness to the importance attributed to our proposals. In Europe, the governments of the GDR, FRG, Norway, and Belgium issued appropriate statements. In doing so Erich Honecker, the GDR leader, informed Chancellor Kohl, through his permanent representative in Bonn, of the GDR Government's readiness to come to an agreement with the USSR Government on the issue of the withdrawal of the enhanced-range strategic missiles [strategicheskiye rakety povyshennoy dalnosti] deployed [razmeshchennyy] on the republic's territory -- if, of course, the FRG comes out in favor of implementing the new proposal.

The governments of Vietnam and Japan have already expressed their support for the Soviet initiative. Premier Nakasone commented that the dialogue should start first with the problems upon which an agreement is possible: His comment serves as a reminder that at the Reykjavik meeting the USSR and United States essentially reached agreement on eliminating their medium-range missiles in Europe.

Our proposal gave rise to lively reaction in the United States. Correspondents working in this country relate that on Saturday, Washington's radio stations reported Comrade Gorbachev's statement every 10 or 15 minutes, invariably beginning the news with the phrases: The USSR is demonstrating new flexibility in its approach to arms control talks with the United States. The ABC television company described this proposal as a major step, and at the same time a challenge to the United States. In addition to famous public figures such as retired Admiral Laroque and Keeney, president of the Association of Arms Control, the Soviet initiative was welcomed by a group of well-known senators, including Nunn, head of the Senate Arms Forces Committee.

As for the White House, its spokesman Deputy Press Secretary Howard, declared the following: The proposal represents a positive development. At the same time, he added that the United States intends to put forward proposals at Geneva couched in specific treaty terminology. I must say frankly that many observers doubt wheteher Washington will meet even this new Soviet initiative halfway. We will not make guesses. I shall point out, however, that the West can no longer link the problem of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe with other problems. The USSR has once again demonstrated its will, in spite of all the obstacles, to resolve the problem of nuclear armaments. It is now up to the United States.

IZVESTIYA Cites U.S. Reactions

PM021409 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 March 87 Morning Edition p 3

[Own correspondent A. Blinov dispatch: "Senator Sam Nunn: 'It is up to the U.S. Administration'"]

[Text] Washington -- The CBS company opened its evening news program with film of the Soviet television program "Vremya." U.S. television viewers heard an account of the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, containing the proposal to the United States to conclude an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe.

Commentaries on the report stress the particular importance of the new Soviet initiative for ensuring progress on limiting nuclear arms. In an interview with a CBS correspondent Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated that the Soviet proposal opens up a "historic opportunity" to reach an accord on the limitation of medium-range nuclear means and in the long term promotes an accord on strategic arms. He noted that such accords could help strengthen security in the United States. Now it is up to the U.S. Administration, Senator S. Nunn stressed.

Other leading U.S. television companies also broadcast an account of M.S. Gorbachev's statement.

"M.S. Gorbachev's proposal opens the door to productive Soviet-U.S. talks," the observer J. Smith of THE WASHINGTON POST writes. Items in the U.S. press material stressed that the Soviet proposal is based on what was achieved at the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Reykjavik and takes into account the mood of wide circles within the community of European countries in favor of lowering the level of military confrontation on the European continent.

As THE WASHINGTON POST reports, U.S. Administration officials regard the report from Moscow as "very good news." Dan Howard, a White House press spokesman, stated that U.S. Administration circles have studied with interest the contents of the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and consider the Soviet initiative a "positive step." At the same time, in his words, the U.S. side intends to state its own specific position in relation to the accord on medium-range nuclear means at the talks in Geneva.

GENEVA COMMITTEE ON SPACE WEAPONS REVIVED

PM021458 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Agreement Reached"]

[Text] Geneva, 27 Feb -- At the Disarmament Conference, agreement was reached on reestablishing the special committee on the question of preventing an arms race in space.

This decision is the result of persistent efforts by the group of socialist countries and the "Group of 21," which unites neutral and nonaligned states. The conference can now embark on concrete talks with the ultimate aim of preventing the deployment of arms in space.

U.S.-USSR HOLD PLENARY MEETINGS IN GENEVA

LD021002 Moscow TASS in English 0957 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva March 2 TASS -- Delegations from the Soviet Union and the United States held a plenary meeting here today at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms at the Soviet side's suggestion.

At the meeting, the Soviet delegation, acting in keeping with Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of February 28, 1987, tabled proposals providing for the taking of the problem of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe from the package of issues and for the immediate conclusion of a separate agreement on this matter.

CEMA POWER ENGINEERING SESSION HELD 24-27 FEB

LD271626 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1549 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Moscow, 27 Feb (TASS) -- An extraordinary session of the CEMA standing commission on cooperation in the field of power engineering was held in Moscow 24-27 February. Delegations from the following CEMA countries participated: the Bulgarian People's Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the GDR, the Republic of Cuba, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the USSR and the CSSR. A delegation from the SFRY also participated in the session.

News Conference Held

LD271855 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- The work of the master chart for the long-term development of the power industry within the framework of the united power grid of the CMEA member countries has entered its final stage. The 71st special meeting of the CMEA permanent commission on cooperation in the power industry, which ended today, approved the draft chart. It will be handed over for the consideration of the CMEA Executive Committee.

"The master chart defines avenues of cooperation between the fraternal countries in the power industry up to the year 2000," Yevgeniy Petryayev, USSR deputy minister of electric power development and electrification, who chaired the meeting, told a press conference today. It is based on the accelerated development of the atomic power industry, improved power budget in each country and translation of the latest achievements into life. For instance, DC transmission lines will be introduced in the united power grid of the CMEA countries, which will improve control over it.

"A possibility of rapid redistribution of electricity," said Stanislaw Kus, Polish deputy minister of mining and power industry, "has enabled each of our countries to have 15-20 per cent less stand-by power capacities than it would be needed under conditions of energy 'isolation'." The buildup of power plants' capacities needs huge expenses. Realization of the master chart will help rationalize even better generation and consumption of electricity.

The press conference pointed out that the master chart gave much attention to the improvement of technology, in particular, means of automation used to control power grids.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD012032 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 1 Mar 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Aleksandr Vladimirovich Zholkver, Central television and All-Union radio political observer; Rudolf Georgiyevich Kolchanov, deputy chief editor of TRUD; and Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Lebedev, member of the NOVOYE VREMYA editorial board]

[Text] [Zholkver] Hello, comrades. The work of the 18th Congress of Soviet Trade Unions has provoked wide interest in the world. In many countries detailed accounts have been published on the speech delivered at the congress by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. This speech, like speeches by congress delegates, particularly clearly exposes the bankruptcy of claims by some Western radio voices that trade unions allegedly play some sort of second-rate role in our country. It must be said that now many Western observers quote Mikhail Sergeyevich's pronouncements about the exclusively important role of the trade unions in the country's public life in resolving issues of work, health, everyday life, and rest for Soviet people, in restructuring the economy and in expanding socialist democracy. For example, the FRG newspaper FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU writes:

The CPSU leader is calling upon working people's organizations to make use of their rights more actively. This is undoubtedly also a component of the restructuring taking place in the Soviet Union. Rudolf Georgiyevich, you, as an editor of our trade union newspaper, have certainly been following the congress' work particularly attentively. What are your impressions?

[Kolchanov] This is already the third congress of Soviet trade unions where I've worked as a special correspondent of the trade union newspaper, so I've already accumulated a certain amount of material for comparison. I must say that the 18th congress, which has just ended, strongly differs from previous ones. Well, the first feature is undoubtedly also reflects the period that the country is now going through: a period of restructuring, a period of renewal, a period of accelerated development of our country's social-economic processes and scientific-technical processes. Of course, this could not fail to be reflected in the work of the entire congress and on the conduct of the debates, not only at the plenary session, but also in the work of the commissions. It seems to me that among the aspects of the congress should be included its open, I would say, sincere nature, and very constructive work. A very great deal of criticism was given, but the criticism was not destructive, it was not criticism for the sake of criticism. Behind every critical word lay the striving to contribute a constructive element to eliminate various shortcomings.

I would identify another aspect of this congress as being the realization -- and I felt this especially when I was in the hall -- by the congress delegates of the breadth of trade union rights and opportunities. This was emphasized in practically every speech, not be bald statements to the effect that we have broad rights and opportunities, but by those proposals that can only be made when one possesses broad rights and opportunities. This was contained in practically every speech; one can do without citing any specific speeches. Indeed, the rights of the trade unions in our country are enormous: There is the potential for legislative initiative; there is the immense potential at the social level, at the level of care for the Soviet people in the defense of their rights; there is the great potential in labor safety regulations, in maternity and childhood care; there is the great potential for influencing not only the adoption of a short-term program for the development of this or that enterprise, but also the long-term development program, not only of the enterprise's economic development, but also of this enterprise's social program.

The trade unions have all these rights at their disposal. The task is for them to use them more boldly, energetically and decisively. A very great deal was spoken about this in speeches by delegates to the 18th trade union congress.

[Zholkver] You have already noted that the congress has indeed taken place in a crucial period in the development of our society. It is doubly significant that this congress is in the year of the 70th October anniversary, that great feast day for our people and a time to review the historic achievements of socialism. At the same time, this is also a boundary, from the height of which one should comprehend the results of both the path that has been covered and the changes taking place in the world, as well as the new tasks confronting our society at this present, extremely important, stage in its development.

You know, I think that when one acquaints oneself with the speeches by the congress delegates and guests, one's mind involuntarily turns to another aspect of this problem. How do things stand with the rights and opportunities of trade union activity in capitalist countries? This is even more important since they are so fond there of talking and arguing about human rights. Well, I've noticed the following data now from the United States: the number of trade union members there has declined in 1 year by 700,000, and in a leading branch of U.S. industry wuch as electronics, only 2 percent of the workers are trade union members.

[Kolchanov] Aleksandr Vladimirovich, I would like to note two reasons for the decline in the numbers of trade union members. Indeed two, and not one, because very often it is said, well, of course, unemployment is a factor. When a man is thrown out of the factory gates, he, naturally, ceases to be a member of the professional organization, the trade union. This is indeed the case. There is yet another reason: people are either afraid to join trade unions because of political persecution, or these people are forced, by economic means and poltical means, to leave their trade union. That is, the rights of a trade union member, which are proclaimed officially in the constitutions or labor laws -- innumerable laws, incidentally, in every capitalist country, and in the United States as well -- are being violated in the crudest manner and by any methods.

[Zholkver] Well, incidentally, your words, Rudolf Georgiyevich, are fully confirmed by a reputable U.S. magazine such as (DISSENT). It also says that the trade union problem has been caused to a great extent by, as it explains, external factors. It literally says the following here: Since the end of the seventies, corporate America -- that is, the major corporations -- has worked in earnest to eradicate the trade unions. The law on national labor relations -- this law has been adopted in the United States -- has ceased to be, writes the magazine, a bill about the rights of the trade unions and has become a real impediment to workers' unification. Antitrade union court rulings, the magazine goes on, allow the administration to dismiss trade union activists almost without impunity...

[Kolchanov, interrupting] What is more, they become a precedent. They even acquire a certain quasi-legal force, which results in persecution of trade union members in other trade unions.

[Zholkver] Yes, this was the case with the air-traffic controllers' trade union...

[Kolchanov, interrupting] Quite so.

[Zholkver] After all, this isn't just a typically American situation. I have seen data on Britain, a country with great trade union movement traditions. Here also, the number of trade union members declined last year by 350,000, and in the last 7 years by 3 million. Well, strictly speaking, this is not surprising if one recalls the brutality, right up to the mass use of police forces, with which the British authorities quelled recent strikes by the mineworkers and printers. At the moment, the conservative government is undertaking a new attack, already the third one in its years of rule, on the trade unions. You have probably seen, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, that a Green Paper has now been published in London -- to tell the truth, it would probably be more correct to call it a black paper -- with a whole set of antitrade union measures. To tell the truth, the minister, Lord Young, terms all this as measures to bring good order in the trade unions. One can imagine, however, what order there will be if the rights of the trade unions are so sharply limited as in this Green Paper.

[Lebedev] Yes, confrontation between government and trade unions is an undeniable fact, I think, in all developed capitalist countries. I was in Spain recently, precisely when the students were in uproar there. Broadly speaking, I will note in parenthesis if I may, that, of course, we journalists are sometimes reproached for the fact that we are very fond of talking about demonstrations, about strikes in the West, but, this is indeed a phenomenon that draws attention to itself and shows the social trouble and the acuteness of social problems over there. The students were demanding radical reforms in education in order not to become unemployed after they start leading independent lives. They also want to necessary and useful to society. Ultimately, they were supported for that reason by the urban workers' trade unions and the agrarian working people's trade unions. On the whole, one could understand this, because Spain -- which we, incidentally, do not often cite in this connection -- already now has 3 million unemployed. That is a little less than in Britain, but the population in Britain is, after all, one-and-a-half times larger.

Also, very often, we've become accustomed to the fact that -- particularly in the Western information media, as well as in all the possible radios broadcasting to us -- they contend how good life is for the unemployed, that being on unemployment compensation means that you don't have to do anything and that you receive an almost untaxed wage. What happens in reality in that same Spain? Out of that 3 million, approximately 1 and 1/2 million generally don't have any right to compensation or any social insurance aid whatsoever. I was really astounded when I saw, both in Madrid and in Barcelona, young men who hadn't gone to seed, so to speak, who were of normal outward appearance, standing with their hands outstretched. This was in the center of town, not by a church somewhere. These weren't professional beggars, but real people who want to work.

[Lebedev] Of course, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, you have just listed some very interesting new initiatives that are developing the ideas voiced at the forum. Another matter is that for our readers and listeners who say that although the movement seems to be broader and more popular in the political sense, the results speak for themselves: the arms race does not stop, Americans continue to do whatever they want, and so on. Those readers and listeners are also right. I think that the truth is, as always, somewhere in the middle, in the sense that the examples you have given show that the concern of the very broad strata of the public overthe U.S. actions, in the first turn, is growing.

Of course, it cannot help but grow because we are all currently witnessing examples of absolutely blatant encroachments on the ABM Treaty, only because in certain U.S. laboratories, according to Secretary of Defense Weinberger, they have found that they can launch certain components of the space system even earlier than they planned a number of years ago. What is required for this? For this one must of course find a pretext and explanation. There are two explanations: the first explanation is that the Soviet Union has allegedly been violating the ABM Treaty. By the way, a report by Stanford University has just been published in Washington prepared by a group of very distinguished U.S. specialists, both scientists and diplomats, including practically all those U.S. representatives who took part in the mixed Soviet-U.S. group for monitoring [nablyudeniye] the observance the treaty acting in the Geneva...

[Zholkver, interrupting] Commission.

[Lebedev] Yes, commission. They formed part of this commission. Their unanimous opinion is that the Soviet Union has not violated a single one of the above-mentioned treaties, that is neither the SALT, nor the ABM. The second explanation is an attempt to represent the matter in such a way that there is no question of any violations of the ABM Treaty from the U.S. side. It is enough to give the so-called broad interpretation to the ABM Treaty and then one is allowed to conduct nuclear weapons tests directly in space. We do not have enough time to quote the corresponding clauses of the treaty but one thing is clear: The broad interpretation has been used to break the treaty.

[Kolchanov] To break in a specific direction: to practically put nuclear arms into space. This is the main goal of breaking the treaty.

[Zholkver] At the same time, however, I would not start justifying this so much by the fact that the preparation of some parameters of the SDI has been so successful that it is time now to put it into space. It seems to me the point here is not only this or maybe, not so much this. There is an interesting article published on that score in BUSINESS WEEK, the U.S. business journal. They are saying that the point is simply to create such a situation now so that future U.S. Administrations -- using the expression, by the way, of Attorney General Meese, one of the closest and most private friends of Reagan -- will not be able to undermine this policy.

[Lebedev] Yes, to make the process irreversible.

[Zholkver] The second, fairly clear aspect here: It has been straightforwardly stated that Star Wars contractors are worried. The point is to put pressure on the very same U.S. Congress so that the allocations do not decrease but increase. For those firms it is the most profitable business. Yet, at the same time, one must say that resistance to SDI plans is growing, not only in broad public circles but also in governmental circles. You know that in just the past few days high emissaries from Washington -- Deputy Defense Secretary Perle and two presidential advisers on disarmament and armament issues -- have been traveling in a number of West European countries and in Japan, but they met with fairly sharp condemnation of these plans, including from government circles. In such a state as the FRG, which is usually called the first student in the Atlantic class, the Americans noted, as THE WASHINGTON POST has put it, unusually tough expressions used to stress the skepticism West Germany feels toward Washington proposals on the so-called broad interpretation of the ABM Treaty. The Netherlands Government came out sharply against this venture with the broad interpretation and for the observance of the USSR-U.S. treaty.

[Zholkver] Yes, and this connection between the problem of employment and the right to work, and human dignity and human rights in general is very important. My attention was drawn to the fact that such a bourgeois French newspaper as LE MONDE in an article under the noteworthy heading "The Number of Outcasts is Rising in France" -- and this not about Hugo's time -- writes: A thought has taken root in the West that it is possible to establish civil liberties and political rights while disregarding economic and social rights. Yet what liberties can there be for a person having no work or means that he or she has earned?

I think, however, while speaking about political rights, one cannot fail to mention that they include, maybe first of all, one of the most important human rights -- the right to live, the right to peace. I think it is really absolutely justified that at the congress of our trade unions, in the speech of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, and in the special address of the delegates of our congress, this particular question, the question of the right of man to live and of the right of all mankind to survival, was posed so sharply and clearly.

[Kolchanov] Touching upon the issue of trade unions, Mikhail Sergeyevich said that the trade union movement is a great force in the modern world and one of the most important components of the movement for the survival of mankind. The fact that the struggle for the interests of the working people has been linked to the struggle for peace and disarmament means that in the consciousness of the masses the understanding of the threat looming over mankind is more and more clear and deep. That is why, Mikhail Sergeyevich said, involving trade unions in this struggle is so important. This theme was voiced in the speeches by many delegates and foreign guests who attended the congress, and there were very many of those. The foreign guests represented 134 countries and what is important, about 30 delegations were representing the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, one of the three largest world trade union centers.

[Zholkver interrupting] Along with the World Federation of Trade Unions.

[Kolchanov] Yes, along with the World Federation of Trade Unions, another nine delegations were members of the International Labor Organization, the third largest trade union center in the world. All this confirmed the high international authority of the Soviet trade unions and, at the same time, showed that the tendencies of trade union centers that are adhering to different political views and different allegiances to make their contribution to the strengthening of peace are carving their way. Another international aspect of the 18th congress consists in the fact that our internal affairs and our internal successes are firmly tied to foreign policy and international events, Mikhail Sergeyevich emphasized that the peace and security of the homeland concern each of us. One should struggle for peace first of all, through everyday work at a factory, in the field or at a research institute. The more successfully we all cope with our tasks at home, the more resonantly and forcefully the voice of the Soviet Union in favor of peace will sound in the international arena. This thought was voiced in practically each delegate's speech and was pointed out by many foreign guests.

[Zholkver] This is now particularly important because a new, very broad, heterogenous but powerful movement has been evolving in the world: the movement for the survival of mankind. This was graphically reflected by the recent Moscow forum. I have had the opportunity to meet very many of its participants who were prominent writers, scientists, and businessmen. It is noteworthy that although it seems little time has elapsed since the forum, there are some details revealing that this movement has been continuing, gaining strength, and taking new forms.

The Soviet branch of the world laboratory has opened in Moscow. This is a new form of international cooperation in the area of science, uniting efforts of scientists from various counties in the joint implementation of peaceful research programs in a very wide range of areas of modern science, including information science, biology, physics, and the creation of educational-procedural materials.

It is interesting that along with Soviet scientists, Italian scientists, for example, are taking an active role in this world laboratory. They were present -- and Italian foreign minister Andreotti was present, by the way -- at the opening of the Soviet branch of the world laboratory. Here is another initiative, an intiative of the city of Hiroshima. They are suggesting an international symposium of journalists be held there on these issues during the next anniversary of the atomic bombardment of this Japanese town. At Malta, which may seem a small island in the Mediterranean, special awards by a local peace laboratory have been instituted. Italian Professor Antonio Zeccicci, Algerian Mohammad Bedjivi and Yugoslav Comrade Milan Komatina, secretary general of the Geneva disarmament conference, were the first to have won these awards.

[Lebedev] It is, apparently, also the same in London. But, you know, Aleksandr Vladimirovich, while agreeing with you in principle, I will, all the same, take the liberty of expressing the view that the expression of skepticism by U.S. allies in connection with SCI is inadequate for really result in some sobering up and realism from the current U.S. Administration.

By the way, we already have a certain experience: This is the experience of our moratorium, which lasted for 1 and 1/2 years. For 18 months our test sites were silent, and no tests were carried out; neither for peaceful purposes nor, what is more, were there any nuclear weapons tests. In these 18 months, however, during which our unilateral, voluntary moratorium was strictly observed, 26 explosions resounded in Nevada. It is as though they are mocking it. After we had again extended the moratorium, having warned...

[Zholkver, interrupting] ...for the fifth time...

[Lebedev, interrupting] ...for the fifth time...

[Kolchanov, interrupting] The Soviet unilateral moratorium was in operation for 569 days, it has already been calculated.

[Lebedev, interrupting] ...and having warned that, until the first U.S. explosion, that explosion was carried out, all the same [sentence as heard]. Moreover, they let it be perfectly clearly understood tht those tests would also continue to be carried out. Well now, it is clear that under such conditions our test on 26 February came as no surprise to anyone. By the way, even if one judges from reactions in a press which is completely, so to speak, very unsympathetic toward us, then it is established as a fully natural reaction to the conduct of the Washington administration.

[Kolchanov] We cannot allow strategic parity to be violated. That is perfectly obvious, especially after demonstrating goodwill for 569 days, to which we did not receive any favorable response. It's simply obvious.

[Zholkver] I think that a view that has come from such a place as Japan, where they know what nuclear arms are, is very noteworthy. The all-Japanese council for the banning of nuclear and hydrogen arms expressed regret, after our latest test, for the fact that the United States did not support the Soviet Union's proposal for a complete test ban and declared straight out that the cause of the present situation that had arisen was the position of the U.S. Administration.

[Kolchanov] So, that is very symptomatic of the reaction in the world to our enforced nuclear explosion, that is clear. I must say that the moratorium performed its great work in all regards, including the fact that it convinced many people of the Soviet Union's genuine love of peace and its sincere desire to do everything so that the world should be without nuclear arms and so that people might live without fear. I would like to note one more thing here. Despite the complicated situation in the international arena, and despite the fact that many Soviet initiatives are being torpedoed by the enemies of peace and the enemies of detente, we are holding the door open -- the door to sincere, honest, constructive negotiations, the door leading to durable peace.

[Zholkver] I will recall that the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, having examined the other day the whole range of issues connected with the implementation of the program for a non-nuclear world, has made a decision to take yet another major step in this direction. On behalf of the Soviet leadership, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev announced our decision to detach the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe from the bloc of issues, to conclude a separate agreement on it and, moreover, to do so without delay. There is not simply a foundation for such a step, but, virtually, a ready-made accord.

It was agreed in Reykjavik that the USSR and the United States would eliminate all their medium-range missiles in Europe in the next 5 years. In the same period, the number of Soviet misiles of this class in the Asian part of our territory would be reduced to 100 warheads, with the understanding that the United States could leave the same number of medium-range missile warheads on their territory. As soon as an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe is signed, the USSR will withdraw from the GDR and Czechoslovakia, by agreement with the governments of those countries, the enhanced-range operational-tactical missiles that were stationed there as measures taken in response to the deployment of Pershings and cruise missiles in West Europe. As for other operational-tactical missiles, we are prepared at once to negotiate for their reduction and complete elimination. Thus, there is a real opportunity to free our common European house from a significant proportion of the nuclear burden in a compressed period ot time. It would be a real, major step toward fully liberating Europe from nuclear arms.

I believe that, in summing up our conversation, it should also be said that, particularly during these recent days when the congress of the Soviet trade unions was at work and the first anniversary of the 27th CPSU congress was marked, it was stressed again that the tasks of acceleration and the restructuring of socialist society, averting a nuclear catastrophe, demilitarizing the world and humanizing international relations form the core of the strategic course of our party were stressed again and that our party will not depart from that course. Thank you, comrades, for participating in this conversation, and thank you, comrade radio listeners, for your attention. All the best to you.

MOSCOW TV'S 28 FEB 'STUDIO 9' PROGRAM

OW280942 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0535 GMT 28 Feb 87

["Studio 9" program presented by Professor Valentin Sergeyevich Zorin, political observer of Soviet Television and Radio, with Professor Karen Nersesovich Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, and Igor Alekseyevich Rogachev, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs]

[Text] [Zorin] Hello comrades. We meet in Studio 9 of the Ostankino Television Center for our monthly discussion devoted to topical problems of international politics. The Soviet Union has again lately confirmed in a most unambiguous way the peaceful character of its foreign policy.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has also demonstrated -- in speeches at the Moscow forum, For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity and at the Soviet Trade Union Congress -- an innovative and constructive approach toward solving the most complex problems in world politics.

In our discussion today, we wish to deal with one very important trend of that policy, the Soviet Union's position on so-called regional conflicts taking place in today's world in relation to Washington's policy which has been given the name of neoglobalism. In order to dig deeper, so to speak, into these problems today, we have invited to Studio 9 our prominent specialists, Professor Karen Nersesovich Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, and Igor Alekseyevich Rogachev, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs.

To add spice to our discussion, I would like to read one of our viewers' letter, a letter belonging to a critical category. Ivan Stepanovich Lebedev, a labor veteran from Irkutsk, writes the following: It seems to me that we do not always place emphasis properly when addressing acute foreign policy problems. Who will deny the importance of problems connected with the liquidation of nuclear arsenals? But a major war can occur at any moment from conflicts which we somewhat scornfully qualify as regional ones, which are local ones. Meanwhile, each of these local conflicts may blow up the entire world tomorrow, if not today. Should we not pay more attention to this aspect of the world situation. This letter may be a somewhat fiery one, but I think it deserves serious discussion. What do you think Karen Nersesovich?

[Brutents] I think we must understand the natural concern of your writer, Ivan Stepanovich, with regional conflicts. They really do seriously complicate international relations, and they contain some serious inherent dangers. We surely do not have to talk about Soviet policy underestimating these dangers or taking a passive position with regard to these conflicts. Quite the contrary. One of the manifestations of the increased dynamism of Soviet foreign policy, the sense of purpose given to it by the 27th CPSU Congress, is precisely the active efforts aimed at searching for ways to settle reginal conflicts.

I would also like to remind Ivan Stepanovich that the topic of regional conflicts occupied a very prominent place in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech at the recent Moscow forum, For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity. I cannot not but agree with Comrade Lebedev when he speaks about the seriousness of this problem and cannot not but agree with him when he notes some special peculiarities of this term. It really does have a kind of calming character...

[Zorin interrupting] ...as if it were a local affair.

[Brutents] Yes. It stresses that exclusively local character, so to speak. In actual fact, each of these conflicts is a kind of mine threatening international security. The very existence of these conflicts and their combined effect, which I think does exist, in themselves poison international relations. If such a hotspot expands and flares up, if such a mine explodes, it will cause very serious and even dramatic complications in international relations. There is also another aspect of the issue. What stands behind this term -- which is really dispassionate and almost academic for the peoples it concerns -- it that it entails very acute problems that cripple their lives, it spells dramatic events for nations, and results in numerous and long-suffered victims.

[Zorin] Igor Alekseyevich, I would like to ask you the following question. The letter I have read includes a reproach to the effect that the problem of regional conflicts is somehow being relegated to second place in our foreign policy. What can you, as the deputy minister of foreign affairs, say on the subjects?

[Rogachev] I would like to begin first of all with words of gratitude to the writer of the letter who has raised such an important and burning issue. I beg, however, to disagree with the letter writer that we are somehow underestimating the problem of regional conflicts in our foreign policy. On the basis of our work experience I can say that this problem deeply worries us all, and that we are devoting much time, effort and energy to it. I would like to remind you that the 27th party congress documents -- especially those pertaining to the concept of a comprehensive system of international security — also include instructions about the importance of solving regional conflicts by political means. The congress resolutions are law for us. In many instances after the congress, leaders of the CPSU and Soviet state, as well as our diplomats developed ideas and proposed ways to solve these conflicts.

[Brutents interrupting] I would like, insofar as the topic of our approach to regional conflicts and our activities in the field was raised, to say, if I may, in confirmation of thoughts already expressed here, that lately -- during the last 1 or 1 and 1/2 years — the Soviet Union has come out with concrete initiatives concerning many regional conflicts. I will not describe them in detail. I will just refer to our proposal on a preparatory committee for a international Middle East conference, as well as to our political and other efforts concerning Afghanistan, particularly the withdrawal of a considerable part of our limited contingent from that country.

[Zorin] What you have both said demonstrates, of course, that the problem of regional conflicts occupies a prominent place in our policy. On the other hand, I can agree with the letter writer's position, because it is very customary with us in propaganda, for instance, to speak about the past 40 years as a period of peace. During this 40-year period -- as a major Hungarian political scientist, Dr (Istvan Kande), points out — the world has not lived a single day without war. Not a single day, writes Professor (Kande), and yet we speak of 40 years without war. We do not have precise data and different figures are often quoted, but the most minimul figures indicate that 1.5 to 2 million people have perished in the course of these military clashes and conflicts. That is a minimal figure.

So there you have local regional conflicts. Subsequently, it is quite possible to understand why people are concerned. In this regard, I would like to ask you the following questions. What is the cause of these conflicts? Are they the result of circimstances or of natural laws? What is the reason for the incessant occurrence of such conflicts in different regions of the globe?

[Brutents] Well, I think that the question is quite legitimate. I think that here we must talk about a sort of double factor. Each regional conflict has its own specific causes and I think this shold be the starting point in our approach to it. They are rooted in history, most often in the colonial past and in colonial policies. It is no accident that most of the regional conflicts occur in the zone of developing countries. They are maintained by the egoistical class policy of the ruling circles, and national and religious fanaticism. For this reason every regional conflict must be approached with an understanding of its specific character; otherwise a move without this understanding would be useless.

[Zorin] Give us an example.

[Brutents] Take any example you wish. Take for example the Middle East conflict with all its difficulties. It is quite clear that the basis of the Middle East conflict -- if we are talking about that aspect of the conflict that I have in mind -- is to be found in the situation created by colonial rule. The Arab-Israel conflict which, to a significant extent lies at the basis of the Middle East situation, was a result of this. I say to a significant extent because there is also an outside factor which I will note in a minute.

When I speak about the specifics of each conflict, necessity teaches that from the outside it appears to be a repetition of elementary truths in my opinion. Nevertheless, I say this because in imperialist politics and bourgeois political ideology there is a strong tendency to depict all these conflicts as elements of the struggle between the West and the East, placing it in the procrustean bed of this confrontation, so to speak. Moreover, this is also not done disinterestedly. Often, on the basis of this, they say that one should not hurry, or that it is impossible to hurry in solving regional conflicts insofar as they need to be shelved until global problems are solved; or sometimes they argue the reverse.

This does not mean, however, that outside factors do not play a role in their creation, or even more important, in their continuation. They do play a very big role, a complicating role, and here we invariably encounter imperialist policies, primarily U.S. imperialist policies.

I will begin with the Middle East again. What is needed to settle this conflict? There is a need to recognize the rights of all the states and peoples of this region to live in peace and security and to develop freely and independently. Thus, the whole complexity of the Middle East conflict can be reduced to this formula. What prevents this? Certainly, even in Arab countries there are forces which are not inclined to take this position; however, they are not the crux of the matter. The crux of the matter, of course lies in the position of the ruling circles of Israel, who have become inflexible in their Zionist arrogance, who are incapable of adopting positions of equal and good-neighborly relations with the Arab countries.

Now who is the guardian of this policy, that is the military, financial, and political guardian? The United States. Of course, it is not doing all this selflessly. In turn it uses Israel as an instrument for imposing its supremacy in the Middle East, and in recent times even as a strategic ally in its anti-Soviet intentions.

[Rogachev] Karen Nersesovich, I wish to add to what you have said. There are conflicts which have been inherited from history, whch began long ago. Perhaps there are more conflicts in the world today, however, that depend on social and economic factors and specifically parochial conditions.

If we are to speak about the Asian-Pacific region, then here too there are examples analogous to the ones that you have just cited. Here I wish to mention the role of the outside factor and particularly to dwell on U.S. policies. The United States, in realizing its concept of neoglobalism, or Reaganism, or the Reagan Doctrine -- there are many names for this -- is directing efforts to support the conflicts so that the flames of these fires are not extinguished.

Let us take the Cambodian example. Many parties are participating in this conflict. A lawful government exists in Phnom Penh -- the Government of the PRK -- which realizes its rule over the whole territory of this country. At the same time, somewhere abroad -- I cannot tell you where exactly, because Sihanouk, rather like a roving soccer player, travels from one capital to another -- a coalition government exists. The so-called...

[Brutents interrupting] Lingering at times.

[Rogachev continues] Quite right, headed by this figure. We place the Cambodian situation in the category of financed conflicts. These are conflicts which are financed from known capitals, including Washington. Very significant sums of money in dollars are earmarked each year which go into continuing interference -- armed interference -- in the internal affairs of the PRK.

This country has suffered much and has earned the right to develop independently, free from the interference of outside forces. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev spoke about this in his 28 July speech in Vladivostok last year. The fate of Cambodia must be decided by the Cambodians themselves and not in the capitals of some third countries.

The PRK and its friends, Vietnam and Laos, have advanced good proposals directed at finding a solution to this situation. First and foremost, there is a proposal to normalize relations with the PRC, and to sign a nonaggression pact with China. We feel that the shortest and most direct way to normalize the situation around Cambodia would be talks between the SRV and the PRC. There are other channels as well which can be used to achieve a gradual normalization of the situation. This would include a dialogue between the countries of Indochina and the ASEAN countries.

[Brutents] You know that characterizing the U.S. role in regional conflicts as inflammatory would not be complete if we did not mention Central American matters. Very briefly, of course.

If we were to listen to some American politicians, the root of this crisis lies in the fact that Nicaragua threatens U.S. national security and that there are, or shortly will be, Soviet military bases there. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz recently even stated that Nicaragua could become the source of another crisis, similar to the Cuban crisis. I am not sure, however, that we should linger in detail on such contentions. They are too fanciful. I will only say that Nicaragua, quite obviously, does not present any threat to U.S. national security. There are no Soviet bases there...

[Zorin interrupting] Karen Nersesovich, in connection with this, I want to ask you a question. The unreasonable and irrational course pursued by Washington in relation to Nicaragua is obvious. What caused it and why is it being pursued?

[Brutents] The fact of the matter does not lie in a concern for national security. No one is taking the right to be concerned about this away from the United States. The crux of the matter lies elsewhere, in the fact that a new state has been formed close to the United States, and this new state does not wish to dance to Washington's tune, and it wishes to live by its own wits, to determine its own policy, and to choose its own friends. That is the crux of the matter.

The second part of your question, if I understood you correctly, consists of -- well today, only a blind man cannot see that those contras do not pose a serious military or political challenge to the Sandinists. [sentence as heard] Why then is this policy being continued? I think that the following answer is possible. All policies have their own logic. A wrong policy also has its own logic, although it is faulty. To admit that this policy was wrong or to reevaluate the political position is not a simple matter. This requires a great deal of political courage.

Second, experience has shown that ideological blinders, prejudices, a definite political class animosity, are all capable of playing malicious tricks on politicians. They hinder the correct evaluation of the situation.

And finally, the fact -- presently the American press is writing a great deal about this in connection with Irangate -- that not all of those who determine policies in the White House have sufficient professionalism may also be of significance. This is how I would attempt to answer the questions. Whether it is convincing or not...

[Zorin interrupting] It is convincing. I would add one more thing. You spoke about the White House in general. I would simply like to say something about Reagan. I remember that one of Reagan's predecessors, President Nixon, kept a quotation by Bismark, which he liked a great deal, on his office desk. It was in attractive calligraphy and said: Politics is the art of the possible. Nixon proceeded from this statement postulated by Bismark. It is possible that Reagan will go down in U.S. history as the president who considered politics as the art of the impossible. Karen Nersesovich, since we are speaking about Nicaragua -- which is truly one of the very pressing questions in the contemporary international situation -- what, from your point of view, could Washington's present course lead to in this conflict?

[Brutents] Well I think that Washington's present course cannot bring anything good for U.S. policy. In the long run the administration is behaving in a way as if it were pursuing a policy of destroying the current regime in Nicaragua -- which was elected by its people -- at any price.

[Zorin] Could they resort to military intervention?

[Brutents] Well, you know that in politics a 100 percent prediction is a dangerous thing. I would answer this question as follows, however, I would like to make two clarifications. First, one must not talk about the United States, but about the present administration. That is the first point, because on this question there is a deep division in the United States and judging by all public opinion polls, most Americans do not support the White House. Second, this kind of intervention could not, of course, solve the Central American crisis. The aim could only be something else, and that is an attempt to suppress the Nicaraguan revolution. So I would put it as follows: If only a smattering of commonsense remains in U.S. policy, then Washington would not initiate such an action. Why? Well, first of all because this would be a serious shock in international relations. Second, an action of this sort would confront the desperate resistance of the Nicaraguan people, an armed people, the resistance of patriots who have proven that they value the gains of their revolution and are prepared to defend it to the end. Third, I think that this would lead to a genuine explosion in Latin America, throughout all of Latin America, from Mexico to Tierra Del Fuego, and opposition from the most diverse political forces. And last but not least, I think that it would arouse a wave of indignation in the United States itself.

[Zorin] Igor Alekseyevich, you used a term which I liked very much. Quite honestly, I had not...

[Brutents interrupting] You mean financed, right.

[Zorin] Yes, a financed conflict, I had not heard it before. I think it is a very accurate term. Now do you associate events in Afghanistan with such financed conflicts?

[Rogachev] Undoubtedly, undoubtedly. The situation here is a familiar one. A systematic armed outside interference is taking place here, primarily from Pakistan. Besides, Washington is allocating huge sums to support the Dushmans, the armed gangs of Dushmans. If I am not mistaken, last year approximately $600 million was spent to encourage and keep up the flow of bandits heading for Afghan territory. There are also facts indicating that other countries are also taking part in financing this interference. So here we see an analogous situation where an external factor is operating actively. This is why what the present Afghan leadership is doing -- it is acting very courageously, flexibly, and creatively, and has proposed a well reasoned program of national reconciliation and announced a ceasefire as of 15 January -- has led to progress in the realization of these measures. Of course, however, they are running into this unseen opposition from very large external forces. The process is developing, talks are being held between...

[Brutents interrupting] Igor Alekseyevich, excuse me for interrupting you, but I think that the Americans are not concealing their position.

[Rogachev] They do not conceal it. There is a statement to the effect that the armed resistance to the legal government must continue, and such statements emanate primarily from Washington, unfortunately.

[Zorin] The term neoglobalism -- which has become fashionable recently -- has already cropped up in our discussion. Why neo and why new is not clear to me as is the reason why we have accepted this term into usage without a murmur.

[Rogachev] Why we began to use it here?

[Zorin] Yes here.

[Brutents] Valentin Sergeyevich, surely you do not want us to find terms for those concepts that are thought up by Washington? [laughs]

[Zorin] This was not thought up. There is nothing new in neo, nevertheless, and I cannot agree with the term Reagan Doctrine, because Reagan does not belong to that number of figures who have proposed their own doctrines. Apparently what is meant here is that this doctrine was proposed during his tenure in the White House. Now Karen Nersesovich, I would like you to briefly formulate the essence of this globalism, of this doctrine.

[Brutents] I think that you acted very appropriately, very correctly when you drew our attention to this issue. I think that intervention in regional and local conflicts is not a new trend in U.S. policy. It has its own tradition. Intervention has always been used to obtain some benefits at the expense of some nations on whose territories the regional conflicts occurred.

There is, however, a definite peculiarity today. An attempt is being made to place all U.S. interventions in various regional conflicts under the same conceptual umbrella so to speak. We have already talked about U.S. doctrines and presidents. It may be worthwhile to remind our listeners that U.S. presidents generally have the inclination -- or rather the weakness -- to dress their political aims in splendid verbal mantlas, and provide them with advertizing labels in the form of concepts, and doctrines...

[Rogachev interrupting] When they want to go down in history.

[Brutents] Yes.

[Rogachev] When they want it badly...

[Brutents] Almost every U.S. President does not enter but breaks into history, or rather tries to break into history. I mention the latter because life has shown that all these advertisements -- rather all these doctrines -- are fast perishing products and I hardly know of a doctrine which survived its master's term in the white House. Isn't that so?

[Zorin] Yes.

[Brutents] Well I think that the current administration too...

[Rogachev interrupting] Is not excluded.

[Brutents continuing] ...could not resist the temptation, and this gave rise to the concept of neoglobalism which includes connections to regional conflicts without fully identifying itself with them. Here is just one quotation to give you an idea what this matter is about. In his annual State of the Union message of 4 February 1986, Reagan addressed the so-called freedom fighters of the world and declared that the United States will give them, and I quote, moral and material support to ensure their right to not only fight and die for freedom but also to fight and gain freedom in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia and Nicaragua.

Well, that is the essence of the doctrine. I will try to describe it briefly in view of our lack of time. First of all I would say tht this is a socially naive concept. Expressed more strongly and accurately, it is socially ignorant. It originates from some kind of police view of history and continues to represent the issue as if the struggle of people for freedom and independence is the work of some kind of subversive elements and that it can be subdued with the use of force.

Second, I think that this is a demagogical doctrine. This word is far from being a strong one in this case because it hides its true aims under pseudodemocratic clothes. One must be really bold to declare [as freedom fighters] the Savimbi groups in Angola which are units led by a former Portuguese security agent; or let us say the MNS [Mozambique National Resistance] units committing outrages in Mozambique which are also led by a colonial army sergeant who personally cuts off prisoners' heads; or to present as democrats the contras who include all kinds of people from Somozist servicemen to heroin traders, but who have nothing to do with democracy. The last point, which may be the most impotant thing practically speaking, is that this doctrine is very dangerous politially because it represents a concentrated expression of U.S. imperialistic ambitions, its claim to world domination and its predilection toward the use of force. All these claims are being advanced at a time when the world is in a very difficult situation, when it is oversaturated with weapons and when there is already a considerable lack of mutual confidence, and when on the contrary, all those interested in the survival of mankind are directing their thoughts and their efforts to cooperation and a search for mutual understanding.

[Rogachev] I feel that the concept of neoglobalism is based on two false premises. The first is based on the assumption that the United States is capable of reversing the historical process, that it can do what a railway switchman does -- throws a switch and the train runs the other way. The second is based on the assumption of right-wing elements and the military-industrial complex of the United States are the same as the interests of the United States, the American people. It is these false premises that are leading the American administration to a false understanding of the world situation.

[Zorin] We speak of neoglobalism. Recently, within the framework of this kind of neoglobal policy, Washington stepped up its activities in the Pacific basin region. Washington's propaganda explains this in terms of a supposedly stepped-up Soviet activity in this region. In particular, most recently there has been much speculation related to the forthcoming visit to a number of countries of this region by Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, our minister of foreign affairs. What could you say in regard to this, Igor Alekseyevich?

[Rogachev] I agree that recently the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have been stepping up their activities in the Pacific Ocean basin and in Asia as a whole. What does this mean? First of all, it is a program for ensuring peace and security in Asia and the Pacific Ocean. This program was formulated last year in the Vladivostok speech of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. It received a very large response -- moreover, a very large positive response -- in the international arena. In many countries, not to mention only the Socialist countries, the program was positively received in the nonsocialist world.

[Zorin] Is Washington's fuss and bustle a reaction to these initiatives?

[Rogachev] I think that this is the direct U.S. reaction to our new initiatives. The United States is doing everything in order to realize its plans in the Pacific Ocean. I wish to remind you that one of the U.S. diplomats, Richard Solomon, who heads the Policy Planning Staff at the State Department, recently said that a war against the Soviet Union will begin in Europe and will then be augmented by a second front in the Pacific Ocean. That is why the Americans, the U.S. Administration, is so concerned over the peace-loving initiatives of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Certainly they were concerned when the Delhi declaration was signed, a declaration on the principles of a nuclear- and violence-free world. Now the visit of the USSR minister of foreign affairs to a number of Pacific Ocean countries and Southeast Asia has not begun yet, and we already hear concerned voices on the other side of the ocean.

This visit has no other goals than the strengthening of cooperation and mutual understanding with the countries of this region. This will be the first visit of the minister to Australia and Indonesia and we know that in Australian political and public circles, great hopes are being expressed that the visit will be fruitful and that our mutual understanding with Australia will improve. I can say the same thing about the reaction to the visit in Indonesia and it goes without saying in the countries with which we have the most fraternal, close relations, the countries of Indochina, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

[Zorin] Igor Alekseyevich, what influence does the political course of the People's Republic of China have on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region?

[Rogachev] This is an interesting question and much can be said about it. China possesses an enormous human and economic potential, international prestige, and can play a very constructive role in the affairs of the Asian-Pacific region.

I would like to say that the Chinese Government is showing increasing activity in the affairs of Asia and the Pacific Ocean, in both regional issues and problems of bilateral relations. Critical comments on U.S. policy in this region have become stronger in the Chinese press recently, including criticism of neoglobalism -- which is what we are talking about today. The Chinese press is also very critical of Strategic Defense Initiative plans, of increasing U.S. military preparations in this part of the globe, and of the Japanese Government's decision to allocate more than 1 percent of the GNP for defense and military aims.

Of course, we also differ some with the Chinese comrades. We cannot agree with the thesis on the contention of two superpowers which can still occasionally be seen and heard. We cannot agree with the Chinese Government's attitude about the conflicts around Cambodia and Afghanistan. It is known that Beijing is sympathetic toward Japan's territorial pretensions which Tokyo brings against the Soviet Union. We cannot agree with this.

Nevertheless, I would like to say that overall...

[Brutents interrupting] There is a movement toward improvement.

[Rogachev] There is a movement forward, and more and more points of contact are appearing for us with China when approaching regional issues, for example, questions of normalizing economic cooperation in the Pacific region. Here we have much in common with China.

We hope that China will play its role in normalizing broad, equal cooperation with countries of Asia and the Pacific Ocean.

[Zorin] Igor Alekseyevich, I would like to take advantage of your presence here in "Studio 9" -- perhaps I display a somewhat professional immodesty, but please attribute this to my vocation -- I know you headed the Soviet delegation at recent talks with a Chinese delegation that visited Moscow. How did these talks go? What was their atmosphere and what happened?

[Rogachev] I would like to recall that we have had no discussions with China on border problems since 1978. Talks were held before that for a number of years. After 1978 they were suspended but have now resumed. The first round, in Moscow over a 2-week period from 9 to 23 February, passed in a very calm and well-wishing [dobrozhelatelnoy] yet businesslike and frank atmosphere.

We agreed with our Chinese colleagues to begin direct specific work on reviewing the position of the line of the border and to begin this work from the eastern part of the Soviet-Chinese border. Our border with China is the longest in the world -- 7,500 km. Overall, the situation on the border is normal and calm, but there are certain questions which we hope to resolve in a spirit of compromise and...

[Brutents interrupting] Good-neighborliness.

[Rogachev] Good-neighborliness, and we hope to find mutually acceptable solutions. But insofar as our talks are confidential -- we agreed to this with our Chinese colleagues -- I think there is nothing I can add to this. [passage omitted]

[Zorin] Good, we will respect your agreement. Our time is running short. I would like to say the following. Obviously it is quite certain that it is not possible to compare problems relating to ending the arms race with regional problems. All this is closely related, as Mikhail Sergeyevich has said repeatedly. I think that regional problems are tied to those changes in the current international situation which are taking place now. Karen Nersesovich, what could you say in regards to this at the conclusion of our program?

[Brutents] Certainly regional problems are closely tied to the general international situation, to the general international climate. There is clearly interaction and influence here. It is even possible to say that a development is occuring along the lines of an interconnecting process. I must say that the international climate is now changing. Perhaps it is not always seen at the level of governments but these ideas, these principles of the new political thinking which the Soviet leadership is addressing and which it realizes in practice on the international political arena, are gathering strength and permeating the world public consciousness. This of course is a very serious factor in favor of solving regional conflicts. This is one side of the matter.

The other side is, in my opinion, that the regional conflicts themselves, under the influence of some internal processes, do not remain stationary, and do not remain in a frozen state. I could once again demonstrate this with the example of the oldest conflict -- which, once again politicians, primarily bourgeois politicians, regard as constant and unsolvable -- the Middle East conflict. When the Soviet Union first proposed the idea for an international conference, it enjoyed limited support; whereas in the West, many governments, not to mention the government of Israel, shied away from these proposals.

Now the situation is quite different. Now, with rare exception, the Arab world and the West European countries support the idea of an international conference. I would add in this regard that I am not totally pessimistic even in relation to the American position. A policy which is alienated from reality and which does not consider facts cannot exist. There is no cause here for deaf pessimism, moreover because... [changes thought] I wish to return to the influence of the international situation and to say once again that the work which is being carried out by our leadership, by the Soviet Union -- I am deeply convinced of this -- will certainly lead to serious, realistic, and positive results on the international arena.

The fact that an understanding of our position and support for our efforts is increasingly capturing the international public was brilliantly demonstrated by the recent Moscow forum. We say, and Mikhail Sergeyevich stated this at this forum: Let us search, we must act together. This is applicable to the Iran-Iraq war; to the Central American crisis; to the Afghan problem; to the situation in South Africa; and to the situation in Indochina. The just political settlement of regional conflicts is dictated by the same logic of an interdependent and integral world which also demands the solution of other global problems -- food, ecology, and energy, as well as the problems of a general spread of literacy, education, and health services. The settlement of regional conflicts is an imperative of our times, emphasized Mikhail Sergeyevich. Such an approach is undoubtedly also a part of the new political thinking.

[Zorin] Well our time on the air has come to an end. Obviously we touched on only some of the aspects of this complex problem. I am certain that we will return to some other aspects in our future broadcasts. Now I wish to thank you for participating in this talk and to thank our television viewers for their attention. Until we meet again here in Studio 9. Thank you.

ANTI-SOVIETS' 'DISARRAY' NO CAUSE FOR COMPLACENCY

PM021101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 87 First Edition p 4

[Political observer Vitaliy Korionov article: "Struggle"]

[Text] The international situation remains unsatisfactory. The risk of war is growing. Nonetheless, there are grounds for saying that the trend toward the humanization of relations among countries and peoples is making persistent headway.

Certain foreign observers point out that the peoples are now dealing essentially with two policies of acceleration. One is being implemented in the Soviet Union. The other -- a very peculiar one -- in the United States. Of course, there is no similarity between them, and, what is more, they are diametrically opposed.

The policy of accelerating socioeconomic development, which the CPSU is implementing, is aimed not only at fully revealing socialism's potential and further improving Soviet society but, at the same time, also at strengthening the potential of world peace. This acceleration does not represent a danger to any people; on the contrary, mankind will only profit from its implementation.

The present administration of the chief capitalist country is also implementing a policy of "acceleration." It is acceleration of the arms race and a speeding up of preparations for the militarization of space. The Reagan administration has broken all "records" here. No one before in the history of that country has thrown such huge appropriations into the jaws of the military ogre, while at the same time ruthlessly cutting spending on his own people's social needs. No one before has had such a thirst for wars -- not only on earth but also "star" wars. As a result, the world has been led to the brink of an abyss.

To bring mankind back from that brink, destroy the nuclear guillotine, and achieve a world without wars or weapons -- this is what socialism sees as its historic mission.

More and more people on the planet are recognizing that the 27th CPSU Congress course and the restructuring in the USSR are having a beneficial impact on the development of the international situation.

Indeed, only someone devoid of subjective judgment is incapable of seeing the fact that the purposeful policy of implementing the Soviet country's tremendous creative plans, the process of our society's further democratization which is under way, and the policy of openness, irrefutably attest to the USSR's vital interest in lasting peace and in predictability and stability of international relations.

Restructuring is extending beyond our country, as it were, and assuming the role of a factor for normalizing the international situation. Refreshing new currents are being felt in the planet's political weather. [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian in its 27 February Second Edition on page 4 publishes this Korionov article: "Struggle" with variations. The previous sentence reads: Refreshing currents are being... Additional variations are in editorial notations below.] On the chief questions of our time -- the question of war and peace -- a substantial shift is becoming apparent in public sentiments and in the positions both of ordinary people and of many statesmen.

The myths propagated over decades by the hundred-mouthed machine of anti-Sovietism and anticommunism are beginning to collapse. [PRAVDA Second Edition reads: The cliches created over decades by the propaganda machine of anti-Sovietism and anticommunism are beginning to fade.] Fewer people not believe the fabrications about the "Soviet military threat." The myth of a "closed Soviet society" and an "unfree Soviet Union" is going under. The anti-Soviet propaganda cliches about "human rights violations" in the USSR are breaking down. [PRAVDA Second Edition reads: The inspirers of anti-Soviet propaganda about "human rights violations" in the USSR are having a hard time.] A breach is being made in the ideological "cordon sanitaire" with which imperialism's swordbearers have tried to surround the Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist countries.

Life itself is creating a true, realistic image of the Soviet Union. Speaking in the Bundestag recently, the well known West German figure Hans-Jochen Vogel said of our country: "We are, perhaps, dealing with one of the most far-reaching political transformations in recent decades. It is already having a considerable political impact. The success of these transformations could be of international political significance." Here is what Professor Hiroshi Kimura, director of Hokkaido University's Slavic Center and an eminent Japanese specialist on the Soviet Union, says: "At first, I must admit, I underestimated the depth of the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and was sharply critical of the Soviet political system. However, now the scale of the affairs of the new generation of Soviet leaders is becoming clear. The change to the electoral process in the party and the state will sharply extend democratic rights. Life seems to be becoming more interesting in the USSR. I used to be able to scan all the Soviet central newspapers and journals in 5-10 minutes. But now not even 2 hours will suffice."

An appeal to give serious thought to the meaning of the measures being implemented by the present leadership of the CPSU and the Soviet state and to draw proper conclusions sounds as a refrain in articles by many politicians and press organs in the West. Here, for example, is what West Germany's BADISCHE ZEITUNG writes: "M.S. Gorbachev's statement about a close connection between his policy of reforms inside the country and policy in the security sphere appears particularly important for an assessment of Moscow's course. What so far was proposed by adherents to a policy of detente in the West and denied by 'hawks' has now become obvious. The Soviet offensive in the disarmament sphere serves the cause of supporting real liberalization in the USSR. It is not a cunning ruse or a trick but part of an overall concept which must be taken seriously."

Broad circles in NATO countries, which every day receive evidence of the adventurist schemes of U.S. imperialism's aggressive circles, see the USSR's actions as a starting point for bringing about a qualitative shift in the development of international events. [PRAVDA Second Edition reads: Broad public circles in NATO countries, alarmed by direct evidence of dangerous schemes of U.S. imperialism's aggressive circles, see the USSR's actions as a starting point for bringing about a beneficial shift in the development of international events.] "Let us take advantage of the historic opportunity presented to us [PRAVDA Second Edition reads: to the world] by Gorbachev's new policy," the public demand, while at the same time warning: The West will make a mistake of historic proportions if it misses this opportunity. [PRAVDA Second Edition reads: make a major mistake if it misses...]

The admissions of certain bourgeois press organs that the policy of openness being pursued in the USSR has "deprived the U.S. Administration of the gift of speech" are of interest. Thus the KOELNER STADT-ANZEIGER states: "The more Moscow says, the more silent they become on the Potomac. This is the silence of an administration which in a certain sense has lost its tongue. It is impossible not to notice that signs of paralysis are to be observed in Reagan and his team. Responsible politicians on the Potomac simply do not now have enough breath for quick, worthy answers and assessments."

It must, however, be added that it is not only and not even so much a question of a "shortness of breath." The chief thing is that the prospects for preserving and strengthening peace are not to the Washington administration's liking. It is far more fond of the climate of mistrust among countries. It is no coincidence that sentiments of chauvinism and nationalism are being fanned so intensively in the United States and an atmosphere of enmity and hatred toward other peoples is being propagated. The American ruling clique reckons that in this poisoned atmosphere it will succeed more easily in implementing such actions, rejected by broad circles of the population, as the liquidation of the 1972 ABM Treaty, the militarization of space, and the rejection of the Reykjavik accords. C. Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Congress, had every reason to remark recently that the Reagan administration has a "hostility reflex" with regard to the arms control process.

But the harder reactionary imperialist circles try to galvanize yesterday's policy and to prevent the assertion of new thinking in international relations, the more resistence they encounter. In particular, public opinion polls conducted recently in the FRG, Britain, France, and Italy have produced characteristic results: Mistrust of the United States is becoming stronger in those countries, and trust in the USSR's policy is growing. The threat from the East, Italy's LA REPUBBLICA concludes, does not instill the former fear in Europeans... The 'cold war' psychosis and fear of 'Ivan appearing' have, by all accounts, disappeared or at least been pushed into the background by other fears. [PRAVDA Second Edition omits: by other fears]

The prospect of a nuclear-free world opened up before mankind by socialism carries within it a tremendous charge of optimism for all people on earch. Socialism is consistently asserting itself as a synonym for peace. A new page is being opened in relations among people, peoples, and countries. [PRAVDA Second Edition omits the preceding sentence.]

Today anti-Soviets and anticommunists are in some disarray. This certainly does not mean that they will not recover tomorrow and set about reviving anti-Soviet myths with new vehemence. Let us not deceive ourselves: That will most likely happen. Therefore, there are no grounds for complacency. On the contrary, a sense of optimism must be complemented by a sense of each and everyone's growing responsibility for the cause of world peace.

CSCE FOLLOW-UP TALKS HEAR USSR TERRORISM PROPOSAL

LD271339 Moscow TASS in English 1314 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Vienna February 27 TASS -- The Soviet delegation to the Vienna followup meeting of the states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe made a proposal on combatting terrorism at the forum's full-scale session today.

The delegation said that regardless of who perpetrates and employs them and where, all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, including those endangering friendly relations among countries and their security, must be regarded as criminal.

It also stressed the inadmissibility of fighting the evil through acts of state terrorism.

The Soviet Union suggested convening an expert meeting of the states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperating in Europe to work out effective measures to prevent acts of international terrorism.

DEMICHEV HOLDS 'FRANK' TALKS WITH U.S. DELEGATION

LD022039 Moscow TASS in English 2008 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS -- Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received a delegation of representatives of U.S. political and business circles led by Senator David Pryor in the Kremlin today.

During the conversation which was held in a frank and businesslike atmosphere, there was an exchange of views on a wide range of matters of both international nature and of bilateral contacts.

The two sides emphasised that the basic interests of the Soviet and U.S. peoples were prompting the Soviet Union and the United States jointly to look for ways to guarantee lasting peace, to normalize and improve bilateral relations, and more fully to identify fields in which the two powers' cooperation could develop successfully.

Petr Demichev emphasised that the foreign policy of the Soviet Union was aimed at overcoming deadlocked situations on a constructive and mutually acceptable basis. The vivid example of that was provided by the new important initiative set out in the statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, about concluding without delay a separate agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on medium-range missiles in Europe.

In answer to questions Petr Demichev touched upon the essence of the reorganization that got under way in Soviet society, emphasising that the reorganisation was aimed at accelerating socio-economic development and was closely connected with consistent implementation of the peaceful foreign policy.

Senator David Pryor said that the deep changes taking place in the USSR aroused a lively interest among his fellow-countrymen.

Touching upon Mikhail Gorbachev's statement about an agreement on medium-range missiles, he emphasised the importance of the new Soviet initiative.

The U.S. businessmen expressed interest in developing business relations with Soviet organizations, including those on the basis of joint-venture enterprises.

Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, had a meeting with the delegation today. Matters concerning the present-day state of Soviet-U.S. relations and prospects for the development of trade-and-economic cooperation were discussed.

The delegation's attention was drawn to the important processes taking place in the Soviet Union. The guests were informed in detail about the course of the reorganization of Soviet society and about plans for social and economic development of the USSR.

On the delegation are prominent representatives of the U.S. agri-business. In this connection some directions of expanding cooperation between the two countries in the field of agri-industrial production were considered with mutual interest.

IZVESTIYA COMMENTS ON TOWER COMMISSION REPORT

PM021418 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent L. Koryavin article under the rubric "Notes Apropos": "Conclusions... Without Conclusions"]

[Text] Washington -- The special commission headed by former Senator John Tower spent 3 months studying the question of the secret operation involving the U.S. sale of weapons to Iran and the transfer of the funds obtained to the Nicaraguan "contras." It drew up a report which takes up a whole volume of documents running to 304 pages.

What are the conclusions of the commission, which was concerned with the scandal that has agitated Washington for some months now and brought the present administration to the brink of a political crisis?

They cannot be called exhaustive or comprehensive. The Tower Commission was appointed by the head of the White House. It was given the duty of studying the role played by the National Security Council (NSC) apparatus in the secret operation. Observers saw this as a restriction on the commission's activity. The commission itself admitted that it had only touched the tip of the iceberg, "but not the tip that sanctioned and carried out this scandalous operation." The main figures in "Irangate" are still concealed beneath the waterline, which has proved impossible to penetrate.

At the moment, everything is confined to such figures as Lieutenant Colonel North and Vice Admiral Poindexter. Then there is White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, who is criticized and accused of not managing to protect the apparatus in his charge from "chaos." But on the whole, as AP points out, the blame is apportioned in such a way as not to touch the President. The report says that the President was not informed about all the details of the operation and did not know the details of the NSC staffers' activity. The commission believes that the President was not informed about the illegal transfer of funds to the "contras."

These "conclusions" caused an especially stormy reaction among journalists. At a news conference conducted by the members of the Tower Commission, they were showered with questions about the nature and main perpetrators of "Irangate." But the answers once again contained nothing concrete, and no exhaustive explanations as to who sanctioned the operation, when, and in what circumstances. The press categorically disagrees with the naive suggestion that it was the doing of North and Poindexter alone, with the irresponsible connivance of Donald Regan. Nor does it recognize explanations whereby an unlawful operation contrary to congressional legislation is identified merely with isolated errors supposedly committed in the administration.

Washington's political and journalistic circles believe that the Tower Commission report does not mark the end of "Irangate." The blank spaces still remain. The scandal is not over; on the contrary, it is growing. Congressman Charles Schumer picked up the book of the Tower Commission report in front of television cameras on Capitol Hill, and said that "in this book a mysterious intrigue is played out, like in a Hollywood hit." "But unfortunately," the congressman stressed, "this is not an illusion, but reality. This is happening in real life, and happening under the roof of the White House."

IZVESTIYA on Regan Dismissal

PM021129 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Dispatch by own correspondents A. Blinov and L. Koryavin: "United States: Reshuffle in White House"]

[Text] Washington -- The resignation of Donald Regan as White House chief of staff and the appointment of Howard Baker in his place have been announced here. Observers have seen in this action not simply the replacement of a key figure in the administration. They view Regan's dismissal as one more attempt to save the prestige of the President himself after it has been undermined by "Irangate."

Efforts are being made to place all the blame for this scandal on White House staffers and to put the President and other leaders of the administration beyond suspicion. The report of the presidential commission headed by J. Tower published the day before asserted that D. Regan bears direct responsibility for the "chaos" in which the White House has found itself as a result of "Irangate."

According to THE WASHINGTON POST D. Regan learned of the President's decision to dismiss him only after it had been reported on television.

The new White House chief of staff, H. Baker, is an attorney by profession and has great experience of political activity. For 20 years he was a member of the Senate, where from 1977 through 1985 he headed the Republican faction. His political views are those of a moderate conservative. In 1980 he sought the Republican Party presidential nomination. By agreeing to take the post of White House chief of staff, H. Baker has at the same time announced his renunciation of his intention to stand at the 1988 presidential elections.

People here see a deliberate ploy in the choice of Baker. Considering his substantial ties on the Capitol, where he enjoys prestige, they believe that he will rapidly be able to put right the administration's ties with Congress and personify a "new start" in the White House's activity. But the main hope is that his arrival will see the closing of the shameful "Irangate" page with all the blame for the adventure being placed on former administration staffers -- North, Poindexter, and now Regan.

Will this "life belt" be able to keep the U.S. Administration and the President himself afloat in the raging storm of "Irangate"? Will Congress continue its objective study of the operation and will it be able to reveal its main dramatis personae? Time will give the answer to these questions.

PAPER REPORTS BUSH PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS

PM271143 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Feb 87 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "George Bush Eager to Become President"]

[Text] Washington, 20 Feb -- "I want to be a President for all Americans," U.S. Vice President George Bush has declared. He made this statement Thursday at the formation of the George Bush for President Committee. Bush is presently considered a leading contender for the Republican Party presidential nomination in 1988.

The well-known political consultant Lee Atwater, who took an active part in developing the strategy to reelect Reagan in 1984, has become the leader of the committee. The creation of the committee at an early stage in next year's presidential campaign is intended to ensure the influx of monetary donations to the Bush election fund.

As the influential NATIONAL JOURNAL states, you do not have to be be a political genius to realize that Vice President Bush has sustained obvious political damage, possibly with long-term consequences, as a result of the unabating 'Irangate' scandal.

This conclusion is borne out by the results of public opinion polls. According to the figures of a poll of Republican Party supporters carried out last December by the newspaper U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT and the CNN television company, only 29 percent supported Bush's candidacy.

TASS COMMENTATOR VIEWS WORLD ROLE OF RDF

LD281713 Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 28 TASS -- TASS commenatator Velentin Vasilets writes:

March 1, 1980, occupies a special place in the history of fast-growing U.S. imperial ambitions over recent years.

It was on that day that then President, Jimmy Carter, signed a directive to raise a Rapid Deployment Force (RDF).

It is one part of Carter's legacy that the new administration of Ronald Reagan has picked up readily and done everything to enlarge.

The official explanation in the early '80s was that the new force was being formed to deal with contingencies and crises in the world's "trouble spots".

But its real mission was easy to see and was reflected in various definitions given to the RDF in the progressive press all over the planet. Some papers called it "an interventionist force", others "a new tool for blackmail and intimidation", while still others, more outspoken, "a brigandage corps".

Despite all their diversity, the definitions have one thing in common: They correctly epitomize the objective and methods of Washington's policy on the international scene, which is aimed at preserving or establishing its domination by force wherever and whenever it sees fit.

The reason cited for taking this approach to foreign-policy matters was nothing new: it was a "Soviet threat".

Quoting from a secret Pentagon directive on the RDF's mission in the Persian Gulf, THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote in October 1982 that its principal goal was to continue ensuring access to Gulf oil and prevent the Soviet Union from taking direct or indirect control over that oil.

The directive said further that America should be prepared under any circumstances to move its forces directly into the region if there appeared to be a threat to its secure access to oil there.

Significantly, the directive said nothing of how those intentions squared with the sovereign rights of the Gulf nations. Those rights were ignored completely.

The use of the wording "if it appears" was also telltale. Washington considers this enough reason to meddle in the affairs of other countries. It demonstrated the approach in practice in Grenada which was occupied by units from the Rapid Deployment Force because American students studying on the island appeared to President Reagan to be in danger.

When a U.S. Central Command (Centcom) was set up on January 1, 1983, to take charge over the RDF, nineteen Asian and Middle Eastern nations were included in its zone of responsibility. Washington had never even thought of asking those countries if they wanted to be included in the action zone of foreign troops.

It is obvious that Centcom's task is to pre-empt such social and economic changes as would not suit the United States in that vast region.

The RDF is thus intended first of all against developing nations, against their right to decide their destiny themselves.

This is the substance of the policy of neo-globalism whose author is the Reagan administration and whose instruments include the RDF.

No words, however fine-sounding, can conceal this.

NEWS ANALYST ON STATE OF U.S. ECONOMY

LD280736 Moscow TASS in English 0623 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- TASS news analyst Ivan Ablamov writes:

Ever more statistical data interfere with the attempts of the present U.S. Administration to embellish the state of affairs in the U.S. economy whose barometer has been indicating a storm for some time. Yesterday's announcement of the Department of Commerce that industrial orders for machinery, equipment and other goods of long service dropped in January by 7.5 percent, a record figure for the past seven years, came as a veritable shock both for Washington officials and the U.S. business circles. And this index is a sure indicator of the future state of the industry. And if military orders are discounted, then the drop in new orders by 9.9 percent turns out to be the record monthly index for goods of civilian use in the entire history of the United States.

There was an even sharper drop in the orders for machinery, by 14.8 percent. The supplies of machinery and transport equipment by the industry had also the sharpest drop in January because of the fall off of the demand.

Against the background of the slack American economy these are the records which shake the American business since this nervousness is also seen from statements of representatives of numerous companies that they expect this year the drop in investments for production and the continued stagnation in the U.S. economy. [paragraph continues]

This was confirmed also by the fact that stock exchanges of the West yesterday reacted to grim U.S. statistics by the fall of the dollar rate.

The reaction to the new statistical data was so acute for the reason that they reflect the general tendency in the U.S. economy in the recent years. "Reaganomics" for the six years of its operation has been a succession of failures and futile expectations. Upon coming into office the Reagan administration promised that the growth rates of the Gross National Product in 1981-1986 will average 3.9 percent. In reality, they proved to be more than modest, 2.4 percent. And according to expert prediction, they will be even less, only two percent, this year. Whole branches of industry and areas of the country are in the state of structural crisis and actual recession. The lowering of the inflation rate has been reached through keeping a huge army of the unemployed who made up on an average in the years of the Reagan administration in office 8.1 percent of the entire work force instead of the promised 5-6 percent.

The present administration spent 1,300 billion dollars for military purposes which has led to a [word indistinct] increase of the budgetary deficit. Even after desperate efforts to reduce it, it is expected to reach 173 billion dollars in the current financial year. Washington has forgotten all about the administration's promise to eliminate the deficit by the year 1986. The pumping of funds and material resources into the war industry limited the possibilities for capital investments in civilian [words indistinct] modernisation of industry led to the lowering of the productivity of labour and fall of competitive [words indistinct] of American goods in the world markets. As a result of all this the growth of productivity in the years of the Reagan administration was meagre 1.1 percent instead of the promised 2.5-3 percent. The country's balance of trade deficit reached an all-time high under the Reagan administration.

The United States has turned into the biggest debtor in the world.

The organ of the U.S. business circles "BUSINESS WEEK" magazine described Reaganomics as economic madness. It must be added that this madness has been a direct result of Washington's militarist [word indistinct] which the country has to pay. The parallels have been drawn ever more often of late between the present state of the U.S. economy and the Great Depression which started in similar conditions. Many prominent American economists note with concern that the arms race under the Star Wars programme planned by the U.S. Administration will engulf hundreds of billions of dollars, will increase the number of "bottlenecks" in the U.S. economy, will make it less stable.

U.S., USSR FARM EXPERTS OPEN DISCUSSIONS

LD022041 Moscow TASS in English 1323 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS -- Scientists, businessmen and experts of the USSR and the USA in the field of production and sale of farm produce have started a broad exchange of know-how at the Soviet-American symposium, which opened here today. It is being held under the aegis of the U.S.-Soviet Trade and Economic Council on the initiative of the USSR Committee for Science and Technology, the USSR Agri-Industrial Committee and the U.S. Ralston Purina Company.

Attending the symposium are representatives of more than 20 U.S. companies, a number of Soviet organisations, committees and institutes. The participants in the seminar are to exchange views on the potentialities of Soviet-American cooperation in such fields as the tilling of soil, cultivation of crops, selection of seeds, plant protection, stock-rearing, fodder production, processing, storage and carriage of farm produce.

The symposium will last till March 5.

COOPERATION ACCORD SIGNED WITH U.S. ARCHIVISTS

PM021201 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 87 First Edition p 5

[Unnamed own correspondent report: "United States-USSR: In the Interests of Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] 20 Feb -- An agreement has been signed in Washington today on cooperation between the USSR Council of Ministers Main Archives Administration and the American Council of Learned Societies. This document, the first of its kind in the history of our two countries, envisages the creation of a Soviet-U.S. joint commission which will regulate relations between the two countries' archive systems.

The USSR and U.S. representatives formulated a broad cooperation program. In particular, there are plans for the exchange of publications on questions of archive work and of copies of archive materials, the holding of joint exhibitions, and the publication of archive materials. An accord has also been reached to give specialists easier access to each other's archives.

This agreement is designed to improve mutual understanding between the USSR and the United States and to contribute to ensuring progress in all spheres of the humanities.

ARCTIC COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH CANADA

LD271055 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0537 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Ottawa, 27 Feb (TASS) -- A session of the coordinating group on scientific and technological cooperation between the USSR and Canada on problems of the Arctic and the North has taken place here. Participants in the session summed up the results of development of links in this field in 1984-86, set the pace for cooperation up to 1989 and examined proposals to expand it.

A protocol signed on Thursday on completion of the sitting of the coordinating group indicates that the sides have agreed to continue cooperation in four directions: geological science and Arctic oil; the environment of the North and Arctic; construction in the North; ethnography and education. Satisfaction was expressed at the course of implementation of the agreed programs and at the prospects for further development and deepening of bilateral cooperation between the USSR and Canada on problems of the Arctic and the North.

ROGACHEV CALLS BORDER TALKS WITH PRC 'CORDIAL'

OW010001 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] The Soviet-Chinese border talks, held in Moscow from 9 to 23 February, were conducted in a cordial, businesslike, and frank atmosphere, said Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Rogachev on the Soviet television program "Studio 9." An agreement was reached, he said, on the concrete work to review the course of the national boundary between the two countries. The Soviet Union and China share the longest boundary (7,500 km) in the world.

Rogachev said: The Soviet-Chinese border situation is, in general, normal. However, there are problems that we hope to resolve in the spirit of mutual accommodation. He added that the PRC will play a constructive role in the affairs of the Asia-Pacific region.

PRC TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED IN MOSCOW 2 MAR

LD021652 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1622 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar (TASS) -- A USSR-PRC protocol on trade exchange and payments for 1987 was signed in Moscow today. The volume of mutual deliveries of goods is based upon the intergovernmental agreement on goods exchange and payments for 1986-90.

In accordance with the protocol, the USSR will deliver to the PRC machines and equipment, means of transport, railway rolling stock, ferrous and nonferrous metals, fertilizer, cement, commercial timbers, and other goods.

The PRC will supply the USSR with soya, maize, meat products, fresh fruits, and output from light industry and other branches of industry.

The protocol was signed by Yevgeniy Bavrin, USSR deputy minister of foreign trade, and Wang Pinqing, PRC vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade.

In the course of negotiations there was an exchange of information on further improving the management of foreign economic ties in both countries, and there was also discussion of questions relating to the development of new forms of trade and economic cooperation.

Boris Aristov, USSR minister of foreign trade, today received Wang Pinqing, head of the Chinese governmental trade delegation, in the course of which both sides expressed their desire to further expand trade between the USSR and the PRC.

POWER STATION COOPERATION DISCUSSED WITH PRC

OW282359 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Soviet and Chinese experts have been discussing in Moscow a plan to build three thermal power stations in China, in accordance with a governmental agreement signed between the two countries in 1985 on economic and technical cooperation in building and renovating industrial plants in the PRC. Modern Soviet-made generating units with a capacity of 500,000 and 800,000 kw will be installed in these power stations.

In an interview with station reporters, Ye Fengli, a technical expert and organizer from the Chinese side and vice president of the Hubei Electric Designing Academy, said the Chinese side is keenly interested in the Soviet-made equipment for the power stations. He said cooperation with the Soviet experts is sincere, friendly, and mutually beneficial in nature.

COMMENTARY ON IMPROVED SOVIET-PRC RELATIONS

OW281415 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 0400 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Station observer Glebov commentary]

[Text] Two items of good news about Soviet-Chinese relations were heard in Moscow this week. The first was that both sides held boundary talks in a practical and frank atmosphere. The second was that the USSR State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports and China's State Physical Culture and Sports Commission had signed a cooperation protocol for 1987, which signified closer sports ties between the two nations. Station observer Glebov comments:

In boundary talks between the Soviet and Chinese delegations headed by the Soviet and Chinese deputy foreign ministers, both sides agreed to review the course of the national boundary between the Soviet Union and China along the entire length starting from the Far Eastern end. Apparently, agreement on this major issue will open new prospects in developing bilateral relations. The cooperation protocol on sports exchanges between the two nations provided that competitions and practice be held in diving, gymnastics, arts gymnastics, track and field, and other sports events. By the way, we would like to point out that a similar protocol signed in Beijing last year has been successfully carried out. In short, a total of 550 Soviet and Chinese athletes and coaches have taken part in jointly sponsored sports activities over the past 3 years. The two documents I mentioned in the beginning indicate steady progress in our bilateral relations.

The Soviet Union and China have actually promoted economic and trade relations since the 1983-84 period. The two nations have signed the first long-term goods exchange and payments agreement for 1986-90 in the history of Soviet-Chinese diplomatic relations. An economic and technical cooperation agreement signed in 1985 provided USSR assistance to China in building 7 new industrial projects and in revamping 17 industrial projects built by the Soviet Union in China in the 1950's. It is a principled line of the CPSU and the Soviet Union for developing bilateral relations with China. The political report delivered at the 27th CPSU National Congress in 1986 stressed that the potential for Soviet-Chinese cooperation is immense, because such cooperation is in the interests of both nations, and also because socialism and peace -- the most cherished concepts of the Soviet and Chinese people -- are inseparable.

MULATOV ON USSR, PRC COOPERATION FOR PEACE

OW010050 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Mulatov commentary]

[Excerpts] In an address to the Soviet Trade Union Congress on 25 February, Soviet leader Gorbachev emphatically pointed out that the Soviet Union will not make a single step beyond the needs of a sensible, sufficient national defense. He said: We have, as always, kept all doors open for any honest steps to limit and reduce arms, to secure dependable verification over this process, and to strengthen international mutual security.

On this, our station observer Mulatov has the following to say:

The Soviet Union has constantly advocated political ideas totally different in principle from militarism and the policies of imperialist forces. Peaceful coexistence, the elimination of nuclear arms, and the proposal for cooperation from all countries in the world in establishing a comprehensive international security system are some of the ideas envisioned by the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

The imperialists and reactionaries have tried their utmost to obstruct the peaceful construction of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, international affairs have developed in a positive direction. Many countries are engaged in active political consultations regarding complex issues, and a trend for more diverse political, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation among various countries has emerged. [passage omitted]

Unlimited possibilities exist for the Soviet Union and China to cooperate in the great campaign by the people of all countries against the nuclear threat. Both our countries are resolutely opposed to escalation of the arms race to outer space, and advocate the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various regions, a total ban on nuclear weapons, and reduction of nuclear arsenals, first of all by the Soviet Union and United States.

TASS REPORTS SHULTZ ARRIVAL IN PRC

LD011259 Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Beijing March 1 TASS -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has arrived on a six-day visit here today at the invitation of the PRC Government.

During his forthcoming meetings with the Chinese leaders, "talks and exchanges of views will be held on questions pertaining to bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest," the XINHUA News Agency said.

Addressing a press conference held on the eve of the U.S. secretary's of state arrival, a spokesman for the PRC Foreign Ministry said that at present Chinese-American relations were stable on the whole. Yet, he added, there are obstacles in these relations, in particular as regards the attitude to Taiwan.

PRC Spokesman on Visit

OW261035 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] According to a Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman, during his visit to China, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz will hold talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian on issues of Sino-American relations and international relations, which are of interest to both sides. He will also meet other Chinese leaders and visit a number of cities.

At a news conference held on 25 February, the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry made a positive evaluation of Sino-American relations. He pointed out at the same time that obstacles still exist in the development of Sino-American relations.

COMMENTARY: PRC SHOULD AID USSR ON U.S. THREAT

OW270345 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Commentary by Soviet journalist on international affairs Volskiy]

[Text] Right now, the world's people are faced with the crucial issue of how to save world civilization from mounting nuclear threats. Under this situation, every country is confronted with the choice of either adopting a wait-and-see attitude or opposing nuclear threats. Those who choose to oppose nuclear threats must join their efforts and rouse their enthusiasm. The resolution adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress pointed out: The progressive forces for peace throughout the world can thwart the threat from imperialism, keep the world from falling into the nuclear abyss, and avoid the trend of turning outer space into a battlefield. The state of affairs during the past year since the 27th CPSU Congress proves the correctness of this statement and clearly shows the importance of international cooperation between the USSR and PRC is even more important. There is great potential in effecting this kind of cooperation , the 27th CPSU Congress pointed out. The state of affairs in the world has proven this point. The Soviet Union and China have maintained identical or similar stands on many crucial political issues. No one can deny such facts. Actually all of us know that the military theories of the United States and its NATO allies are based on the concept of nuclear containment, which recommends first use of nuclear weapons. With the amount of nuclear armaments in the world expanding continuously, this kind of concept has greatly increased the danger of a world nuclear war.

Now, the major nuclear powers have refused to use nuclear weapons first. Let us see why their refusal is of great significance. The Soviet Union has already accepted this obligation, while the PRC has also accepted the obligation of non-first use of nuclear weapons. The two great socialist nations have adopted an identical stand on this basic issue. This is something of great importance.

With regard to the issue of nonmilitarization of outer space, both socialist powers are opposed to the deployment of nuclear weapons in space for military purposes. However, U.S. imperialism is seeking to acquire global military predominance through an arms race in space. This is a daydream. The Soviet Union is determined to maintain the military balance between socialism and capitalism. Obviously the U.S. Star Wars plan is threatening all nations and people and undermining the foundation of international security.

Hoping to make use of the so-called SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative] plan to acquire military predominance on a global basis, Washington is also seeking to attain similar predominance in various regions. It is paying particular attention to Asia and the Pacific region. The United States has deployed nuclear weapons on its military bases in the Philippines and South Korea and on the warships of the 7th Fleet, and has turned the Micronesian Islands into a testing ground for its nuclear weapons. Washington has its own reason for refusing to sign the treaty proposed by countries of the South Pacific region to turn this region into a nuclear-free zone. The fact that both the Soviet Union and China have signed this treaty again proves that U.S. imperialism opposes these two socialist powers just like it opposes the cause of socialism in the entire world.

It is the imperialist policy of aggression, not the so-called superpower confrontation, that is threatening international security. What is our conclusion? The work of further expanding and strengthening USSR-PRC coopration is becoming more and more important, and such cooperation is becoming more and more feasible. All this is conducive to the cause of peace and socialism, because peace and socialism are inseparable from the national interests of the Soviet Union and China.

TASS: VIETNAM REPORTS PRC BORDER VIOLATIONS

LD172137 Moscow TASS in English 1910 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi February 17 TASS -- The Vietnamese press today carried a report by VNA news agency about the Chinese side's violations of the border with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

In the first ten days of February, the report said, there took place three attempts to infiltrate spy-and-saboteur groups into various parts of the provinces of Lai Chau, Hoang Lien Son and Quang Ninh but those attempts were cut short.

On February 12 about a company of Chinese troops attacked the territory of Visuen District. After losing 15 men killed, they pulled back to Chinese territory.

On February 14 a platoon of Chinese troops managed to penetrate up to one kilometer deep into Vietnamese territory in Chungkhan District, Cao Bang Province. They fired at people from the village of Titey, killing eleven Vietnamese civilians and wounding others.

PUSHKIN ANNIVERSARY MARKED IN BEIJING 25 FEB

OW261032 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0200 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture, cultural and art activists, members of the China-USSR Friendship Association, and intellectuals met in Beijing Wednesday to commemorate the 150th death anniversary of the great Russian poet Pushkin. The participants at the meeting pointed out that Pushkin's works have had good influence on Chinese writers, poets, and playwrights. Troyanovskiy, Soviet ambassador to China, also spoke at the meeting.

PRC'S EXTENSION OF BANK REFORM NOTED

PM271045 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 19 Feb 87 p 3

[TASS report: "Steps of Financial Reform"]

[Text] Beijing, 18 Feb -- At an all-China conference here of branch directors of the People's Bank of China, which is the PRC's main financial institution, the further extension of the reform of the financial system was announced. In the present year it is being conducted on an experimental basis in 27 cities.

The reform's aim, the news agency notes, is to switch the country's banks to self-firancing. Chinese banks like, for example, the Agricultural Bank, the Bank for Industry and Commerce, and also the People's Construction Bank, are given the right to hold and dispose of their own credit funds independently of the central financial organ. It is proposed that they themselves will seek and implement new forms of banking service, nominate and remove their directors, and hire employees and determine their salary.

Another important aspect of the reform is the strengthening of the role of the People's Bank of China in steering a strategic course in the area of finance. It will formulate credit policy and also monitor the movement of financial resources throughout the entire PRC national economy.

SHEVARDNADZE MAKES BANGKOK STOPOVER, HOLDS TALKS

LD021318 Moscow TASS in English 1254 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Bangkok March 2 TASS -- Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, en route for an official visit to Australia, today made a stopover in Bangkok.

Eduard Shevardnadze was received by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and had talks with Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila. In the talks, which passed in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere, both sides displayed interest in the development of Soviet-Thai relations in different fields, including the political, trade, economic and cultural ones. In the course of exchanges of views on some key issues of the world situation, emphasis was laid on the tasks of ensuring universal security and organising broad equal and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

The Soviet side drew attention to the latest major Soviet initiatives on medium-range missiles, put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in a statement on February 28. Emphasis was laid on the importance of new approaches to international problems, including in Asia, and on the intensification of efforts to assert in South-East Asia an atmosphere of trust, good-neighbourliness and peaceful cooperation. The Soviet Union's consistent policy of support for the initiatives aimed at achieving a political settlement of the situation related to Kampuchea and improving the situation in the region through the promotion of dialogue between the two groups of states situated here was reiterated.

The Thai side stated its positive attitude to the Soviet Union's efforts to avert nuclear war and safeguard and strengthen peace in Asia and all over the world. It was stressed that the initiatives put foward by Mikhail Gorbachev in Vladivostok and during his visit to India met those goals.

The sides agreed to continue more detailed discussions on bilateral relations and international problems of mutual interest in Moscow during the forthcoming visit of Sitthi Sawetsila to the Soviet Union.

AFP on Arrival

BK020558 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Bangkok, March 2 (AFP) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived here Monday to begin an Asian tour which diplomats said might include a new initiative on Cambodia.

Mr Shevardnadze, the first Soviet foreign minister ever to visit Thailand, was met at Bangkok's military airport by Thai counterpart Sitthi Sawetsila, who then accompanied him into the city in a limousine.

"It is a rare occasion for us to come," Mr Shevardnadze said upon arrival.

The Soviet official was to hold talks with Mr Sitthi and Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon during his five-hour stay, which was not designated as an official visit. [passage omitted]

AFP on Shevardnadze Remarks

BK020931 Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Bangkok, March 2 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union is close to agreeing a time frame for withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, and the process could serve as a model for resolving the Cambodian problem, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was quoted as saying here Monday. Mr. Shevardnadze, the first Soviet foreign minister to visit Thailand, made the remarks in talks with his Thai counterpart Sitthi Sawetsila after arriving here Monday on the first leg of an Asian tour, a Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He told Mr. Sitthi that Moscow was close to setting a time frame with the Kabul government for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The withdrawal might take 22 months, Mr. Shevardnadze was quoted as saying, and indirect negotiations to resolve the Afghanistan issue might serve as a model for a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian problem.

He did not specify in what way the Afghanistan experience could serve as a model for Cambodia, and told reporters that he had brought no new initiative on that issue. "We will continue to discuss problems related to a political settlement of that problem," Mr. Shevardnadze said. [passage omitted]

Further AFP on Remarks

BK021225 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 2 Mar 87

[By Michael Adler]

[Excerpt] Bangkok, March 2 (AFP) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said here Monday that Moscow was hopeful of reaching agreement to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and that the process might offer a model for resolving the Cambodian problem.

"The Afghan Government has put forward a timetable and the rest depends on Pakistan," Mr Shevardnadze told reporters before leaving here for Australia after a five-hour stopover, the first leg of an Asian tour that will also include Cambodia. "Our view is that the current round of negotiations (on Afghanistan) will be productive."

Mr Shevardnadze, the first Soviet foreign minister to visit Thailand, earlier told his Thai counterpart Sitthi Sawetsila that the withdrawal might take 22 months, Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Somphan Kokilanon said.

He also indicated to reporters that the Afghanistan withdrawal process might offer a model for resolving the Cambodian problem. "They are different countries.... So maybe a different approach would be appropriate. On the other hand maybe some of the aspects could be used for that country too. We discussed that problem with the foreign minister." But Mr Shevardnadze told reporters he had brought no new initiative on Cambodia, something which had been speculated on here. "We will continue to discuss problems related to a political settlement of that problem," Mr Shevardnadze said, referring a planned visit to Moscow in May be Mr Sitthi.

Mr Sitthi had "expressed the hope" to Mr Shevardnadze during two hours of discussions "that the Soviet Union would and could persuade Vietnam to come to the negotiating table," the Foreign Ministry spokesman added.

Mr Shevardnadze did not give details on the indirect negotiations on Afghanistan, which involve Pakistan, and did not specify in what way the Afghanistan experience could serve as a model for Cambodia in his talks with Mr Sitthi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. [passage omitted]

SHEVARDNADZE ARRIVES IN AUSTRALIA 3 MAR

LD030627 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0616 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] Canberra, 3 Mar (TASS) -- E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR minister of foreign affairs, arrived here today on an official visit at the invitation of the Government of Australia. At the airport he was met by William Hayden, the Australian foreign minister, and by other officials.

On his arrival E.A. Shevardnadze issued a statement. On the same day, Soviet-Australian talks began.

Issues Arrival Statement

LD031057 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 3 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Canberra today on an official visit at the invitation of the Australian Government. He was met at the airport by Hayden, Australia's minister of foreign affairs, and other officials. Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze made a statement on arrival.

We have, he said, traveled around the world as a testimony to our commitment to a simple but great idea. Presented by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, it says: All states and peoples of the earth must participate in setting up a comprehensive system for international security and peace, and the word of each one on this subject should be heard and received with the utmost attention. We have come to Australia to exchange views on possibilities and ways of a transition to a nonnuclear and nonviolent world, of ensuring calm and stability in the Asian Pacific region, and of strengthening cooperation between our states. We await with interest our meetings and talks iwth Governor General Sir Ninian Stephen, with Prime Minister Robert Hawke, and with my colleague, William Hayden. I would like to hope that they will want to know more details of the processes under way in the Soviet Union.

There is no doubt that we will have no shortage of topics for conversation, continued Comrade Shevardnadze, particularly since this is the first time we have had the opportunity of such a broad dialogue. I would not like to repeat things which are already well known, for example on what divides us -- a vast amount of land and sky and a considearable distance in political and other differences. It is with great pleasure that I speak of what brings us closer: of the memory of our people which contains gratitude to the Australian sailors and pilots who accompanied transport ships with cargoes for our victory, of the pioneer spirit peculiar to both our peoples in mastering the difficult natural world, in protecting it, and in conquering the difficult roads of the earth, of the proximity and even identity of position on a series of central issues of peace, security, and the survival humanity in the nuclear and space age, of the bonds of cultural and spiritual ties, thanks to which the names of Bernhardt and Eccles, Wilson and White, Melba and Sutherland, Drysdale and Nolan and many other outstanding representatives of Australia are known and respected in our country.

I am convinced that the meetings and conversations on Australian soil will facilitate better and more profound mutual understanding between our countries and peoples as well as the interests of peace and of a single security, the same for everyone. I wish all Canberra residents and the citizens of Australia well-being, happiness and peace.

The Soviet-Australian talks began today.

FURTHER ON SHEVARDNADZE SOUTHEAST ASIA TOUR

For Southeast Asian coverage of the visit of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Southeast Asia, see the 2 March Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

TASS ANALYST: U.S. INCURRING WRATH IN PACIFIC

LD022157 Moscow TASS in English 2140 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

The Washington administration is making heavy-handed attempts at justifying its hegemonistic policy in the Pacific Ocean area and, in particular, in the South Pacific.

Only recently the participants in a discussion at the U.N. Special Committee on Decolonisation condemned the militarization of the Pacific Ocean area by imperialist circles. They specially emphasised the dangerous character of the unlawful actions of the United States which tries to annex Micronesia and to convert the trust territory into the Pentagon's backyard.

Washington is again bringing the wrath of the peoples of the region upon itself by declining to put a signature to the protocols to the Rarotanga treaty which proclaims the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone.

The U.S. Administration's decision, which is in sharp contrast to the positive approach by the USSR and China to the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the region, has given rise to a critical reaction even in the USA's allied country -- Australia.

It was pointed out in Canberra at official level that Washington's stance would only increase the disappointment of the island countries and their discontent over the U.S. policy in the region.

Notwithstanding that, Washingotn does not think of changing its approach and overtly shows hostility to any steps aimed at ensuring security and at consolidating the non-nuclear status of the region.

In an ASSOCIATED PRESS interview, Admiral Ronald Hays, commander of the U.S. Armed Forces in the area of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, directly stated that the Rarotanga Treaty did not suit the United States because it restricted possibilities for the use of nuclear weapons, on which, as he put it, the entire U.S. strategy is based.

Having in mind a possibility of the proclamation of a nuclear-free zone by the ASEAN countries, too, the admiral with haughtiness characteristic of Washington stated that the United States hoped to resist the tendency.

In order to somehow divert the attention of the peoples of that part of the world from the obviously imperialist policy, Washington again resorted to such "original" means as an uproar about a "Soviet threat" in that part of the world.

A certain staff member of the Department of State said, for example, that the United States shared the concern of other island states of the Pacific Ocean region over an increased Soviet presence in the region.

He said the United States drew the attention of the Government of Vanuatu to the circumstance that Soviet fisheries were often a cover-up for different kind of activities.

Another administration official, a former one, though, in this connection expressed 'misgivings' that a 'new Grenada' might appear among the islands of the Pacific Ocean and together with it a prospect that the United States would one day have to carry out intervention for the purpose of overthrowing a pro-Soviet government.

Such kind of pieces of 'good advice' and the thinly-disguised brandishing with a military bludgeon are none other than an obvious blackmail with regard to the peoples of the South Pacific who strive to ensure their future along the road of peace and equal mutually beneficial cooperation.

Those U.S. stratagems clearly reflect Washington's unwillingness to reckon with the collective will of the governments and peoples of the region.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it was stated from the rostrum of the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union that it would strive to lend dynamism to its bilateral contacts with all countries situated there without exception, including quite young ones.

Unlike Washington, our country does not seek benefits for itself to the detriment of others, does not aspire for a special status, and does not try to strengthen its security at somebody else's expense. The Soviet Union is ready to cooperate with full respect for the right of every people to live according to its own choice.

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION'S SRV VISIT REPORTED

PM021049 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union Public Education and Culture Commission headed by K. Salykov, commission chairman, member of the CPSU Central Committee, and first secretary of Karakalpak Party Obkom, is in Hanoi.

During its friendly visit to Vietnam the delegation was received by Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the SRV Council of State and chairman of the republic's National Assembly, and Tran Xuan Bach, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee. Talks were also held with a delegation of the SRV National Assembly Culture and Education Commission headed by Tran Do, commission chairman and member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

ROMANIA REFUTES CLAIM ON FUEL SHORTFALLS

LD272215 Moscow TASS in English 2144 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Bucharest February 27 TASS -- The rate of growth in trade between the USSR and Romania in 1986 was the highest over the last decade. The Soviet share in Romania's foreign trade turnover for the first time exceeded 30 per cent.

These figures were cited at a press conference on the development of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The press conference held at the Soviet Embassy in Bucharest today was told that fuel, raw and other materials continued to prevail in the structure of Soviet supplies to Romania.

The deliveries of Soviet oil grew last year to 60 per cent of Romania's aggregate oil production. The supplies of power and natual gas also went up. As was emphasized at the press conference, these deliveries were made at a time when there were shortages of these kinds of fuel in the Soviet Union due to the severe winter.

The attention of the journalists was drawn to the fact that the figures cited at the press conference fully refuted concoctions spread by various "radio voices" to the effect that the difficulties in the provision of the Romanian economy and population with fuel and power in winter were due to shortfalls in Soviet deliveries.

JARUZELSKI 'ARDENTLY SUPPORTS' CHANGES IN USSR

PM271535 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS Report: "Historic Process of Change"]

[Text] Warsaw, 23 Feb -- The PZPR ardently supports the historic process of change currently taking place in the socialist community, W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish State Council, said.

He was speaking at a meeting between secretaries of primary party organizations in Warsaw and the capital's voivodship and the Warsaw PZPR Committee Bureau. We are following the changes with bated breath, he continued, above all in the Soviet Union, which arises out of the effective role of the great party of Lenin. The symbolism of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the current process of change have their own historic significance. This was profoundly reflected anew at the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum.

Our party ardently supports this course, the Polish leader stressed. Thanks to it, socialism is becoming stronger. There is no turning back from the processes which could be called the Leninism of the late 20th century. This accords with the quintessence of socialism and represents a historical necessity and the dialectics of the development process.

At the same time, the CPSU's innovative, creative line is part and parcel of the intensification of activity for peace. We were all impressed by the recent international forum "For a Nuclear-free World, for the Survival of Humanity" and we support the Soviet peace initiatives. We support all that M.S. Gorbachev is doing. His energy, boldness, and farsightedness deserve profound respect and sincere appreciation. The fact that we are in this common stream, that the Soviet land is committed to seeing Poland strong, modern, and secure, that our class ideological and state, international interests coincide completely gives us a sense of great satisfaction and, at the same time, a great opportunity. Poland has not had such a happy coincidence for an entire millennium. It is our great historic gain which must be protected.

W. Jaruzelski dwelt in detail on the role and tasks of primary party organizations and all party members in fulfilling the decisions of the 10th PZPR Congress and PZPR Central Committee plenums aimed at accelerating the country's development and overcoming all existing difficulties as quickly as possible.

GUSEV, VORONIN RECEIVE BULGARIA'S DOYNOV

PM271235 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 24 February V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, had a meeting with O. Doynov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers Economic Council.

On 25 February O. Doynov met with L.A. Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gossnab. There was an exchange of opinions on questions of the further development and deepening of economic cooperation between the USSR and Bulgaria in the sphere of material and technical supplies.

G. Pankov, Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR, participated in the talks.

[Sofia BTA in English at 2040 GMT on 25 February 87 in a similar report adds: "They discussed a number of questions of the bilateral contacts in the sphere of chemical, timber and woodworking industry, as well as in the field of materials and technologies." It concludes, "Mr. Ognyan Doynov had meetings with leaders of a number of central economic organizations in the USSR. The talks were on concrete questions of the bilateral economic relations."]

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF ITALY'S ANDREOTTI

Greeted by Shevardnadze

LD261104 Moscow TASS in English 1051 GMT 26 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS -- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy Guilio Andreotti arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

At the airport he was met by Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R., and other officials.

Attends 'World Laboratory'

LD271142 Moscow TASS in English 1120 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- The Soviet branch of "World Laboratory", a new form of international cooperation bringing together scientists from different countries jointly to carry out peaceful research programs in a wide variety of fields, was opened ceremonially at the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences today.

The ceremony was attended by Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CUSP Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti who had arrived in Moscow for the purpose at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

Those present also included Guriy Marchuk, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, prominent Soviet and Italian scientists and heads of a number of Soviet ministries and departments.

The "World Laboratory"'s Soviet branch at the first stage of its activities will be preoccupied with Soviet-Italian scientific cooperation projects in such fields as the information science, biology, physics and study aids.

The projects are listed in an agreement on international cooperation in science and technology under the aegis of the "World Laboratory", which was signed at the ceremony by Yevgeniy Velikhov, leader of the "World Laboratory"'s Soviet branch and vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and Professor Antonio Zichichi, leader of the "World Laboratory"'s Italian part.

Detailed Talks With Gorbachev

LD271753 Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev today received in the Kremlin the Italan Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

A detailed exchange of views on key issues of European and international security, in which the Soviet-Italian dialogue holds an important place, was conducted in a frank and well-wishing atmosphere.

What international relations now lack are positive, bold steps, especially joint steps, Mikhail Gorbachev said. In this connection the question of Europe's role was raised on a major plane. Lately it appeared to be displaying desire to make its contribution, the Soviet leader went on. The Europeans are making an effort and have already accomplished something, first of all in Stockholm. But these are only the very first steps to utilise Europe's wealth of experience in accordance with the requirements of the times.

Mikhail Gorbachev again refuted the still widespread suspicions that the USSR supposedly wants to wreck the Atlantic alliance and wrest Western Europe from America. We are realists here in the Kremlin, Mikhail Gorbachev went on, but at the same time we proceed from the premise that in world affairs nobody can substitute for Europe.

Noting again the deep connection between the Soviet Union's present home and foreign policy, between the restructuring in the USSR and its striving for improved international relations, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that "we would like to be predictable, we are conducting our affairs constructively and with a sense of responsibility. But if somebody wants to draw from this the conclusion that the USSR is more interested in disarmament than the West nothing will come out of this and again a chance to start this process will be lost".

"The task objectively exists of placing East-West relations on the soil of reality and, in ridding ourselves of the status of nuclear hostages, of solving a multitude of problems -- economic, ecological and humanitarian. There are more than a hundred new states in the world now which are searching for their road and they have a hundred times more problems than the states which have centuries behind them. Account should also be taken of these problems both in relations between the developed and the developing worlds and in East-West relations", Mikhail Gorbachev said.

In other words, politics should be nurtured by present-day realities, Mikhail Gorbachev said. The Soviet Union has no intention whatsoever to encroach on ties between various regions of the world. We treat with understanding the interests that Western countries have in the East and in the South. But we disagree with the policy according to which these interests should be satisfied at the expense of the interests of those whose resources this concerns. Both encroachments on historically formed ties and refusal to take into account the lawful rights of the new states are equally fraught with explosive situations.

A difficult process is under way -- from understanding what policy is needed by the world today to formulating this policy as such, Mikhail Gorbachev said further. We are now exactly at this stage. And it is important therefore to meet each other half way. The USSR is prepared to cooperate with the West in the search for the best balance of interests.

In this context the interlocutors spoke highly of the recent forum in moscow "For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity". They agreed that the entire significance of what had happened was yet to be realised -- what sort of an event this was and what follows from it.

Guilio Andreotti said that in his entire activities he proceeded from the conviction that the world should become wiser. That is one of the reasons why he welcomes what is now happening in the Soviet Union and which, he said, "is very important for all of us".

Much attention during the conversation was given to the Soviet-American talks in Geneva. Both agreed that there are influential forces in the United States which want resultative talks, the attainment of accords.

Mikhail Gorbachev stressed that the Soviet Union approaches with all seriousness the development of relations with the United States. The Soviet Union is for developing contacts, for continuing disarmament talks, not formal talks but substantive ones. It does not see, however, an adequate reply reaction, Gorbachev went on. The United States leadership is retreating from Reykjavik and has already reached a line when the ABM Treaty, which is of fundamental importance, is being put in question. The "broader interpretation" of the treaty is not a routine, transient element at the talks, it is a matter of principle.

In this connection Mikhail Gorbachev said that the main thing at present is to prevent the wrecking of the ABM Treaty. Otherwise the talks will be depreciated, the arms race will escape control, instability will become critical, distrust and suspicion will grow. That would be a blow to the East-West political dialogue which is only beginning to pick up pace and would have grave psychological consequences for the entire world public. A shadow will be cast over everything. To put it briefly, this would be a great political mistake.

On its part, Mikhail Gorbachev said, the Soviet Union will do everything to prevent such a turn of events. But there must be understanding of the importance of this issue by everybody. Giulio Andreotti assured his interlocutor that intentions to abandon the ABM Treaty are not shared either in Italy or in other West European countries.

Problems of eliminating and reducing nuclear arms of various classes in Europe, as well as of conventional arms and armed forces were studied. Giulio Andreotti remarked that the terms proportion and disproporation should be sorted out. Mikhail Gorbachev showed understanding of Giulio Andreotti's considerations.

The main problem and the main obstacles on the road to disarmament are of a political nature, Mikhail Gorbachev said in this connection. This is a question of political will, a question of intent.

Principled moments [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian at 1624 GMT on 27 February in an identical report renders "principled moments" as "fundamental points"] of a Middle East settlement were discussed in connection with the declaration by the EEC countries stating a favourable attitude to the Soviet proposal to work for an international conference on the Middle East. The two agreed that what is being meant, to use Giulio Andreotti's words, is "preparation to prepare" a conference with most thorough account for the interests of all the interested sides and without attendant preliminary conditions.

In conclusion Mikhail Gorbachev said that Soviet foreign policy reflects among other things feelings of great respect and friendship for the Italian people. This too is a reality of the present European and international situation, he said. It is in this spirit that the visit by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee to Italy this year will be prepared.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Italian ambassador in the USSR Sergio Ramano and the secretary general of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Renato Rugiero were present at the conversation.

Useful Talks With Shevardnadze

LD271857 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Today a meeting took place between Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of foreign affairs, and Andreotti, Italy's minister of foreign affairs, who is currently in Moscow. A detailed and useful exchange of opinions took place on most important international problems and also on matters relating to bilateral Soviet-Italian relations with a view to further developing and deepening them.

Concern was expressed on both sides at the continuing arms race and the tension that remains in East-West relations. It is commonly believed that in present conditions it is necessary that efforts be stepped up primarily in the areas of nuclear disarmament, strengthening existing mechanisms for restraining the arms race, and consolidating mutual trust and mutual understanding on the cardinal problems of security and international development.

Andreotti Luncheon Speech

LD272229 Moscow TASS in English 2127 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- "Italian-Soviet ties have become a substantial factor in international relations as an example of cooperation and mutual respect between countries belonging to different alliances and political systems", said Giulio Andreotti, Italy's foreign minister. He spoke today at a luncheon given in his honour by USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"Our countries have a long-standing tradition of mutual political and cultural contacts in whose development many generations participated", Andreotti said. "Your culture has aspects which deeply enchant us and are a basis on which the common language can be found, even if differences persist. This was said by one of your great writers Aleksandr Hertzen".

"The policy conducted by the Soviet leadership is closely watched in Italy", Andreotti stressed. "It is sought to grasp the new elements, above all those that would promote the improvement of prospects for international cooperation.

"Indeed, nothing is more important than safeguarding peace. Italy gives priority to precisely this task. We are convinced that in moral and political aspects there must be no alternative to safeguarding peace.

"Quests for a military balance of a new type are of much importance in the process of consolidating international accord. The Reykjavik meeting, even if it has not led to actual arrangements, has been an important movement of this process. In the Icelandic capital we saw for the first time how prospects for a sharp alteration of the tendency of the past 40 years emerge through a substantial reduction of nuclear arms. But it is not enough to freeze arms. It is necessary to start resolutely the elimination of arsenals which are built up in horrible proportions during the arms race.

"European countries, among them Italy, do not want the Reykjavik results to be wasted. They wish that the striving for solving global tasks should not interfere with the conclusion of agreements even on specific matters, when there exists every condition for this. We declare for the observance of the existing treaties, against advancing preliminary conditions which would block the talks and, in the long run, would throw back both countries to the initial positions. There is a need to conclude agreements which would mean a turn so long awaited in the East and the West.

"We would like to see in Vienna the signs of progress in the spheres in which the European have always been showing special interest, from reductions of conventional armaments to economic cooperation and human rights".

Giulio Andreotti further noted that the Middle East conflict directly affects Italy. The European Community has just declared for the convocation of an international conference for the Middle East under the United Nations auspices with the participation of all the sides concerned.

Shevardnadze Addresses Luncheon

LD272111 Moscow TASS in English 2102 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- "Your visit to Moscow and our meeting bear evidence to the mutual aspiration of our countries for such a Europe which, as in the epoch of quattrocento, would emanate an energy of cultural humanism", the USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said in his speech at a luncheon held in honour of the Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

"Our predecessors, our glorious ancestors have worked much and well in this direction", Shevardnadze said further. "And not only far from one another, but side to side, shoulder to shoulder. The theme "Italians in Russia" is just as popular with us as "Russians in Italy" in the Apennines. I refer not only to those who created for Russia on the banks of the Tiber but also to those who fought in Caribaldi's detachments for Italy".

"Today we become increasingly convinced of the need of joint work for a nuclear-free world, for creating a system of all-embracing security, for eliminating seats of war danger in various parts of the globe and settling regional conflicts, be it in the Middle East or in Central America".

"And regardless of how significant were the aims pursued by our great ancestors, these "brothers of a shared idea", the task confronting us, their descendants is much more important: to save the mainstays of life itself on earth and, consequently, mankind's world civilisation. And here no differences of ideology and political orientation should be an obstacle".

"The Soviet leadership's alarms and fears that the revived contemporary movement in Europe for security and cooperation is being slowed down by scholastic constructions of the mythical Atlantic solidarity should be understandable to you, a plenipotentiary representative of the country of the Renaissance", Shevardnadze went on. "And beyond the continent we see a multitude of instances of attempts to distort agreements and lift restrictions on the arms race with truly medieval chicanery, attempts to adjust jurisprudence to justify armed encroachments on mankind's peaceful outer space, to subordinated science to these dangerous aims. The present-day alchemists and obscurantists must be rebuffed. And it is formed by a multitude of efforts, including pruely scientific ones".

"Today a realistic policy is unthinkable without a deep scientific analysis, without a study of the objective processes of human society's development. On the other hand, the responsibility of science, of the scientists of all countries has never been greater for ensuring that their ideas and discoveries serve peaceful, creative aims, facilitate the growing welfare of the peoples of all countries", Shevardnadze said further. "Life today equally demands of scientists and politicians a genuinely humanistic approach, a new thinking based on a profound understanding of the realities of the nuclear and space age".

"The road must be cleared for peaceful alternatives to military programmes, for such alternatives that would rally the peoples, direct their creative energy at ensuring conditions of life worthy of man", the Soviet foreign minister stated. "This is important also morally and psychologically. For the fulfilment of international peaceful programmes will make it possible to demonstrate in practice the advantages of dialogue and openness over confrontation and isolation".

Andreotti Interviewed on Talks

LD272041 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 1830 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Two hours well spent. This is what Andreotti said at the end of a lengthy talk held today in the Kremlin with the Soviet leader, Gorbachev. Here is a report by Renato Caporilli, our special correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Caporilli] Italian-Soviet relations have become an important point of reference on the international scene, particularly when it comes to strengthening East-West dialogue and detente. This is the impression that one gets following Andreotti's visit to Moscow. This was personally said by Gorbachev to the Italian foreign minister during a talk that lasted over 2 hours; 2 hours well spent, Andreotti said. This talk was the climax of the visit, along with the signing of the agreement for the Soviets to join Professor Zichichi's World Laboratory.

Gorbachev's visit to Italy was also confirmed. It is under study and will definitely take place this year. Andreotti's talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze mainly centered on the contribution which countries belonging to different alliances can make in order to consolidate international entente. This is what Andreotti said to us in an interview:

[Andreotti] I think that Italy is making a contribution to two fronts -- one took place today, here at the Academy of Sciences, a crowning achievement following many months of trying to bring together not only Italian and Soviet scientists, but scientists from all over the world, including the United States. This is a contribution that we are making to detente.

[Caporilli interrupting] On disarmament, is it possible to reach intermediary stages before reaching a global agreement?

[Andreotti] The main thing is to have a framework that provides encouragement to believe in these intermediary stages. No one would be in a position to achieve an immense whole. It is essential that there should be a connection, particularly mutual trust.

[Caporilli] On the Soviet domestic situation, what impression do you have of this restructuring, this renewal?

[Andreotti] Until recently, those who spoke about it favorably appeared to be deluding themselves. Now, this is something that is seriously under way.

[Caporilli] There were talks about the Middle East. What is the position of the Soviet leadership on this problem?

[Andreotti] Of course they are the organizers of the conference. However, they agree on the fact that this conference must be well prepared in all its aspects. Well, anyway, it is not taking place in March.

[Caporilli] Did you talk about Lvov and the Italians who disappeared?

[Andreotti] It is a question of examining archives. The Germans, the German defense minister, also gave us their help. So, I would say that there are no political difficulties on this.

[Caporilli] That is all; back to the studio. [end recording]

Seen Off by Shevardnadze

LD272026 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Feb 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Giulio Andreotti left Moscow. He was seen off at the airport by Comrade Shevardnadze and other officials. Romano, Italy's ambassador in the USSR, was among the party seeing him off. [video shows Shevardnadze and Andreotti walking across the airfield to the aircraft; Shevardnadze and Andreotti shake hands]

DOBRYNIN RECEIVES ITALIAN SENATOR, DELEGATION

LD272050 Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 27 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 27 TASS -- Today Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received a delegation of the Christian Democratic Party of Italy led by Senator Julio Orlando, member of the CDP leadership and head of the party's international department. It is staying in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation.

In the talk held in a constructive and goodwill atmosphere, the sides discussed key problems of the international situation, including questions on disarmament, guaranteeing of security in the world, development of the European process and Soviet-Italian relations.

The talk was attended by Vadim Zagladin, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy head of the Internatonal Department of the CPSU Central Committee.

DEMCHENKO VIEWS BACKDROP TO EGYPTIAN REFERENDUM

PM181543 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 87 First Edition p 5

[Pavel Demchenko "Commentator's Column": "Election Date Set"]

[Text] The results of last week's referendum in Egypt have been announced: Nine-tenths of voters voted for the dissolution of the current parliament, the People's Assembly.

The changes introduced into electoral law toward the end of last year provided a formal reason for holding the referendum. The point is that the last elections (in 1984) were held under conditions whereby access to parliament was blocked to parties polling less than 8 percent of the votes in the country, while even widely known nonparty figures were deprived of the right to stand as individual candidates. This was a blow to opposition forces, particularly the left wing, which have continued to advocate the repeal of this discriminatory law throughout the last few years.

It appears, however, that the dissolution of parliament was not brought about by this alone; there were other deep-rooted causes. It was these causes that forced the ruling National Democratic party, which gained an absolute majority of seats (390 out of 458) in the last election, to hold the referendum -- whose outcome was, generally speaking, easy to predict.

The point is that the country is now going through a difficult period in its history. In the words of President H. Mubarak, "its economic situation remains extremely complex." The external debt is rising and now exceeds 38 billion dollars, produce prices are also rising, and the Egyptian pound had to be devalued again: according to Gosbank's calculations it is now worth only 49 kopeks -- one-half of what it was worth a year ago.

A new government was formed at the end of last year, which, according to Cairo newspapers, has only one concern -- the economy, the economy, and the economy again. Visiting Cairo, one perceives that matters cannot be limited to just this one task. Economic complexities are interwoven into a tight knot with political problems, and people's dissatisfaction at times spills out onto the streets. In the opinion of I. Shukri, chairman of the Socialist Labor Party, economic transformations of Egyptian society "are possible only as a consequence of political reforms, including constitutional and legislative changes."

I was told in Cairo that, having monopolized power, the ruling party has become the sole target of blame for all the disorder, to which it cannot find a solution. Moreover, these accusations come from both the left and right-wing bourgeois circles. An expansion of the political base would make it possible to step up the efforts aimed at improving the situation in the country and, at the same time, to place a part of the responsibility on others.

Elections for the new parliament are set for April. The fact that they will be held long before the constitutional deadline shows that Egypt is on the threshold of possible changes which its society needs.

LIZICHEV ARRIVES IN CUBA ON WORKING VISIT

LD012348 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2325 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Havana, 2 Mar (TASS) -- Army General A.D. Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, arrived here on Sunday on a working visit. He was welcomed at Havana International Jose Marti Airport by Divisional General Rogelio Acevedo Gonzalez, chief of the Central Political Directorate of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, and Divisional General Sixto Santana Batista, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of the Military Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

PANAMA'S GOMEZ ON DEMICHEV, TOLKUNOV MEETING

PA020347 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 1 Mar 87 p 6-A

[Unattributed article: "USSR-Panama: Friendship Bonds To Be Strengthened"]

[Text] The delegation of the Republic of Panama's Legislative Assembly continues its visit in the Soviet Union. Talks have been held at the Kremlin between the Panamanian parliamentary members, the presidents of the chambers, and the presidents and members of the permanent commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The delegation was welcomed by Petr Demichev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Luis Gomez, president of the Foreign Relations Commission and secretary of the Canal Affairs Commission, referred to the results attained by the Kremlin meetings during a conversation with an APN correspondent:

First, I believe we must mention the hierarchy which has welcomed the Panamanian delegation. We held two productive meetings: one with Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Council of the Union, and another one with Petr Demichev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet. During the two meetings it was evident they had great knowledge about the situation in the Latin American nations and the world, particularly about the Panamanian people's struggle for the recovery and integration of the waterway which belongs to the Panamanians and the violations to what was pledged through Law 96-70.

We must admit that the Soviet Union's authorities are worried about the critical situation which prevails in Central America. They recognized the contributions and participation of the Panamanian Government and people through the Contadora Group, which is a peaceful way to settle problems from the viewpoint of respect for the people's self-determination. Noninterference in internal matters will allow the Central Americans to settle their problems without a war that might have negative consequences for mankind, basically for Central America.

We also discussed the efforts exerted by all the nations so that disarmament and the world's denuclearization become a reality. A rash arms buildup can bring about a scourge: the death and destruction of mankind. [paragraph continues]

Also, the economic resources spent in this buildup could resolve the problems of hunger and poverty which afflict the world's people. The expenditures for the so-called "Star Wars" and other arms buildups -- which create the possibility of a nuclear weapons' confrontation -- should be used for the economic and social development of the U.S. nations and the world.

We also noted with great concern the developing nations' foreign debt and analyzed ways to make our countries more productive and to counter the situation, because many countries cannot pay their foreign debt.

Referring to Panama and the Soviet Union, we came to the conclusion that it is necessary to strengthen the bonds of friendship and develop commercial, cultural, and scientific exchange in the short term. As a developing nation, this could mean the possibility of exchanging views to create a mixed enterprise that would use our fishing ports. Thus, the Soviet Union's fleet would easily transfer its workmen and unload products in Panamanian territorial waters. The conditions are given for this to become a reality. In the case of airlines, there is also the possibility of an exchange through Aeroflot. An agreement on this has been pending for many years; it was signed by our Assembly and is simply waiting for ratification.

ARGENTINE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER FAVA ARRIVES

LD260234 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Feb 87

[Text] Fava, general secretary of the Communist Party of Argentine, arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. With him were Etchegaray, member of the Political Commission and the secretariat of the Communist Party of Argentine, and Alvarez, member of the Political Commission of the Argentine Communist Party Central Committee.

Talks With Dobrynin

LD012234 Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS -- Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin met on Saturday with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Argentine Athos Fava, member of the Political Commission and of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina Patricio Echegaray and member of the Political Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Argentina Francisco Alvarez, who arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. Some questions of the present-day situation in the world, of the international communist and working class movement and the further development of ties between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Argentine were discussed.

The conversation passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

AFANASYEV ON PRESS: NO FORBIDDEN TOPICS

LD021847 Moscow TASS in English 1835 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS -- The Soviet press will develop in the spirit of creative work, democratisation and wider openness, Viktor Afanasyev, chairman of the Board of the Journalists' Union of the USSR, editor-in-chief of PRAVDA newspaper, said today.

He spoke here at a press conference dealing with the Sixth Congress of the Soviet Journalists' Union, which opens on March 14.

The task of the Soviet press now is to accumulate public opinion, inspiring people to direct efforts towards reorganization, socio-economic acceleration and democratisation of life in the USSR.

"Although PRAVDA, as the central party organ, aims first of all to popularize the domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU," Viktor Afanasyev said, "there are no 'forbidden' topics, spheres or phenomena, which were hitherto reckoned 'inaccessible' or 'undesirable' for criticism, for the newspaper now".

When speaking of the degree of the openness of the press in the USSR, TASS director-general Sergey Losev pointed out "the need to publish everything that is of public interest".

"Life consists not only of positive phenomena," he said. "Air crashes, railway accidents, and earthquakes do happen in the USSR, too. We now think that reports about all that should appear on the teleprinter."

"We are not afraid of open criticism and self-criticism," Sergey Losev went on to say. "This was spoken of, in particular, during Mikhail Gorbachev's recent meeting with the directors of Soviet mass media. However, criticism should not be allowed to develop into criticasting [as received]. Criticism should be accurate and truthful, should not detract from a person's dignity, and should be of creative nature, not of destructive one, indicating ways to get rid of shortcomings."

In answer to a question about a new law on the press being prepared in the USSR, the participants in the press conference pointed out that the document was still in the works so far.

It is necessary that the new law should ensure the freedom of creative activity, uphold the rights of journalists and at the same time raise their responsibility for statements in the press.

Discusses Pravda's Tasks

AU251408 Vienna Television Service in German 1915 GMT 24 Feb 87

[Report by "Westdeutscher Rundfunk-Cologne" on an interview given by PRAVDA chief editor Viktor Grigoryevich Afanasyev in Moscow; date not specified -- recorded; Afanasyev statements in Russian fading into German translation]

[Text] The chief editor resides on the eighth floor of the PRAVDA building, room 815. Before being allowed to enter his room, one has to wait until the lamp switches from "Wait" to "Enter".

The size of the room corresponds to the furnishings: large desk, half a dozen telephones, fresh flowers, books, presents, and souvenirs. If not reporting on current affairs, what then is the task of the Soviet press? The answer is not unexpected but sobering because of its stunning openness.

[Begin Afanasyev recording] Propaganda, propagandizing party policy, assistance in implementing party directives. We observe public opinion and align it in accordance with the party decisions. Control is important, too, and so is criticism, and the discussion of our problems. We also provide entertainment, scientific and literary items. PRAVDA is a very many-sided newspaper. It begins with the economy and ends with sport. We report on everything. Clearly our main and most important task lies in not trying to conceal the fact that we are a party paper.

In this we differ from the Western press which hides behind the mask of impartiality but -- as a matter of fact -- is rather partial as well. Let me clarify this once more: Our main task, our main topic is the implementation of the party decisions. [end Afanasyev recording]

PRAVDA SEES PRESS 'CHANGING FOR THE BETTER'

PM241403 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 87 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Work Program for the Press: Drawn Up by CPSU Central Committee January Plenum"]

[Text] The Soviet press is now changing for the better. Readers are attracted by its receptiveness to what is new, its bold and thorough treatment of topical problems, and the sometimes keen exchange of opinions. The party supports the mass media's efforts to develop openness, criticism, and self-criticism within society. Soviet people have fittingly assessed the mass media's stance in the struggle for restructuring. Central newspapers and journals have gained more than 14 million new readers.

The CPSU Central Committee Janaury (1987) Plenum and M.S. Gorbachev's speech to leaders of the mass media and propaganda gave concrete form to the 27th party congress' line of further enhancing the role and responsibility of the press in the country's socioeconomic acceleration, defined its most important directions, and analyzed the errors and omissions of publicists and journalists' collectives. The plenum materials are a program of the party's activity for many years to come. They are also a program of work for the press, an active participant in restructuring.

The editorial staff of newspapers and journals, radio and television now have two interconnected tsks to resolve. First, the stage of restructuring as a complex, difficult, dialectical process. At the same time, they must restructure their own work and bring the creative reserves of each journalist into play. There must be more professionalism and less generalized discussion about the benefits of restructuring. That must be the present main theme of mass media articles.

Time and the situation demand the press focus its attention on man's spiritual world, on the human factor, and on the all-around coverage of the life of labor collectives. This is where the fate and implenentation of plans are decided. [pargraph continues]

What has been done is not yet enough. Many newspapers have still not spoken clearly about the pioneers of restructuring, the heroes of our time, restless people creatively seeking ways to boost the economy, those people who most vigorously struggle to fulfill the plan. Full coverage has not been given to accounts of how the actual workers, kolkhoz members, and specialists are overcoming difficulties. Wide-ranging dialogue and consultation with the people are now more necessary than ever, they can significantly influence the development of the new thinking and the increasing of labor activeness.

The press must support openness in the country. There are no questions which cannot be answered. The press is an important instrument for developing democracy in the economy, policy, and the party itself. Prompt reporting must be skillfully combined with the coverage of working people's initiative and independent activity and the significance of the tasks which the country is going to resolve in this jubilee year of 1987 must be highlighted.

The propaganda of the vital experience of work in modern conditions is of fundamental significance. The new ways are developing with difficulty and are often stifled by indiscipline, conservatism, and the desire to play safe or to work in the old ways -- for the sake of a quiet life. The press' most important task is to show how to work by means of good examples and to rouse people for the struggle for revolutionary transformations in society. The working man must be the main character in the press and on the Soviet television screen.

The Soviet press has the necessary experience and ability here. The newspapers CHELYABINSKIY RABOCHIY and VITEBSKIY RABOCHIY present interesting, creative, and varied descriptions of the achievements of production innovators and pacesetters. However, there are also errors in evidence -- the narrow range of the heroes of labor named in some publications, stereotyped and hackneyed texts, and the boring ennumeration of production achievements. Everything is often reduced to mere figures and indicators. In those cases there is no insight into the spiritual world of man. Banal, superficial, often skimpy sketches can no longer satisfy readers. What is worse, some newspapers are starting to revert to retrogressive views and are failing to properly evaluate the slackers, the mercenary, those who want to give society a little less while taking from it a little more. This applies in particular to the local press -- the city and rayon press -- where there is still a strong tendency to play safe and coordinate reports in various ways.

The role of the press in restructuring is growing. At the same time there is an increasing responsibility on editorial boards for every word published in their newspaper, a responsibility which is not felt by all editors. This particularly applies to critical articles. The January Central Committee Plenum noted with the utmost clarity that the attitude to criticism is an important criterion of a person's attitude to restructuring and to everything new that is going on within society. The refusal to accept criticism is intolerable. But, as the plenum report noted, the party believers that the mass media's work will continue to be marked by depth, objectivity, and a lofty sense of civic responsibility. The press itself is not exempt from criticism. Here, too, much depends on the party-mindedness and range of vision of the editor and the members of the editorial board and how well informed they are. Restructuring, as the Central Committee meeting noted, applies to journalists and the entire press.

It is common knowledge the strength of the press lies in party leadership. The party newspaper is the face of the party committee. [paragraph continues]

From its content it is possible without any forced interpretation to derive a complete picture of the level of work of a party organization in a given region and of how restructuring is progressing. The party committee's role in the leadership of the press organ increases day by day. This has nothing to do with petty tutelage, fault-finding, and unjstified demands to remove an offending item from an issue. The correct course of action is demonstrated by those party committees which work persistently to increase the effectiveness of press items, rebuff those who would suppress criticism, skillfully mold editorial cadres, help to improve journalists' consumer and living conditions, and instill in the aktiv a respect for the printed word and the difficult work of editorial office staffers. Recently a major analysis of the work of the mass media was held at the Stavropol CPSU Kraykom plenum. The character of the kray newspaper has begun to noticeably change for the better. In many party committee the practice of monitoring the effectiveness of the main major press items has become established and this reflects a desire to ensure the unity of word and deed.

At present, however, party committees are overlooking the monitoring of the effectiveness of materials describing advanced experience and innovative ventures. Now it is very important to use the party's influence to support all that is constructive, to adopt this, and to use the first manifestations of the new approaches in conditions of restructuring. The party committee's task is to intensify the newspaper's organizational function from day to day and to ensure that it becomes, in V.I. Lenin's graphic definition, a collective propagandist, agitator, an organizer of the masses and an instrument of socialist building.

The press is expected to help people to better understand and master the ideas of restructuring and to rouse the masses for a nationwide struggle for the successful fulfillment of the party's plans. During restructuring journalists' cadres must also learn -- learn how to write well about the good things in life and in the renewal of society. We may be confident that journalists and our party publicists will live up to their lofty vocation.

'STATE SECRETS' REASON FOR LERNER VISA DENIAL

AU022000 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1931 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow -- The Soviet authorities have again denied an exit permit to cybernetician Aleksandr Lerner who has wanted to emigrate to Israel since 1971.

According to a statement made by the 73-year old scientist, today for the first time an explanation was given for the rejection of the application. Lerner is in possession of "information on state secrets," it was said.

COMMISSIONS CRITICIZE FERROUS METALLURGY MINISTRY

PM021241 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 87 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "With the Aim of Saving Resources"]

[Text] The Communist Party and the Soviet state attach great significance to saving and making rational use of the country's energy resources as a necessary condition of increasing the efficiency of social production. This was the theme of the keen and interested discussion among USSR Supreme Soviet deputies at a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Power Industry Commissions on 20 February. The question on the agenda was the work of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy in reducing the energy-intensiveness of current output and improving the use of secondary energy resources. The keynote speaker was Ferrous Metallurgy Industry Minister S.V. Kolpakov.

The speeches stressed that the 27th CPSU Congress decisions envisage reducing energy-intensiveness by a factor of at least 1.4 by the year 2000. Ferrous metallurgy, which is the largest consumer of electricity and the second largest consumer of fuel among the industrial sectors, must make a tangible contribution to this important state work. It was noted that the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy is taking certain energy-saving measures. The overall target for saving fuel and energy resources in the 11th 5-Year Plan was overfulfilled.

At the same time, the standard of the ministry's organizational work does not match the target set by the party of turning the saving of resources into the key way to satisfy the national economy's increased need for fuel and energy. The sector is making poor use of the achievements of scientific and technical progress, the output of sectoral science is low, and by no means all its developments are put into production. There is little cooperation between the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy and its associations and soviets of people's deputies in the campaign to save fuel and energy. The ministry is still failing to ensure the necessary restructuring of the work of the management apparatus, enterprises, and organizations in energy saving.

The resolution that was adopted instructs the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy to take guidance form the 27th CPSU Congress decisions an the January plenum guidelines in order to reveal the sector's potential, ensure that it is used, and achieve a significant improvement in all the work to make rational and economical use of fuel and energy resources and carry out additional concrete measures to resolve this problem.

DEPUTY MINISTER DISCUSSES RAIL SYSTEM STATUS

LD111754 Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS -- A 1,200 kilometre "northern branch" of the Baykal-Amur Mainline (BAM) will be the main transport construction project of the current Five-Year Plan period (1986-1990). The line, being driven towards Yakutsk, the capital of the autonomous republic in Siberia, will bring into economic circulation big deposits of iron ore, coal, other minerals, said Vasiliy Kalinichev, deputy minister of railways of the USSR. He addressed today a press conference held on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of railways in Russia.

The first 27-kilometre line, which in the 1830's linked Petersburg (now Leningrad) with Tsarskoye Selo, did not certainly have serious economic significance, said Kalinichev. But it gave an impetus to rapid development of railways in the country. The total length of railways in the USSR has now reached 145,000 kilometres. New railway lines, built predominantly in northern areas, rich in mineral, fuel and energy resources, promote the development of those areas.

The railways account for more than 50 percent of the total freightage and about 40 percent of the passenger carriage. The railways carry 12 million tonnes of cargoes and 12 million passengers every day. The intensity of their operation is among the highest in the world practice, said the Soviet specialist.

The growth of railway traffic intensity in the USSR is primarily linked with growing weight of train loads: Every year it increases by 100 tonnes, on the average. In the Soviet Union's conditions railways are the most economic, reliable and suitable transport to carry all sorts of cargoes, said the deputy minister.

Meanwhile, the orderliness and organisation on a number of railways so far leave much to be desired. That became particularly clear this winter when railwaymen of Siberia, the Urals and Moldavia have been taken unawares by strong frosts and snow drifts. As a result, seven million tonnes of cargoes have not found the addressee late last year. Measures are now being taken to remedy the failure, said Kalinichev.

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES EXPORT PATTERNS, TASKS

PM191533 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA No. 7 in Russian, Feb 87 (Signed to Press 5 Feb 87) p 2

[B. Rachkov commentary under the rubric "Thoughts of an Economist": "Foreign Trade and Market Conditions"]

[Text] As the USSR Central Statistical Administration has reported, in 1986 compared with 1985 the country's foreign trade turnover increased 2 percent in comparable prices, that is in physical terms. But in current world market prices it fell 8 percent, totaling R130 billion as against R141.6 billion last year.

It is known that the developed capitalist countries and developing states account for some of the USSR's foreign trade ties. In 1986 this sector totaled 33 percent of Soviet foreign trade. The economic expediency of our trade with countries with different social systems is well known, and politically such trade makes a weighty contribution to the manifestation of the ideas of peaceful coexistence. But this does not spare it from the risk of the uncontrolled influences of capitalist market conditions.

Last year the world market experienced a more than two-fold fall in the export prices of fuel and raw materials. As a result, thousands of Western firms involved in raw material and fuel extraction went bankrupt, hundreds of thousands of people lost their jobs, and the already huge debt burden of many developing states increased by tens of billions of dollars.

Socialism has created real opportunities for economic development without the destructive consequences of crises and economic shocks. It carries over the system of scientific planning to its foreign economic relations too. In particular, most CEMA countries have protected their foreign trade ties with each other from acute price fluctuations by the mechanism of planned pricing.

However the section of our foreign economic ties accounted for by the capitalist world continues to be subject to its uncontrollable economic forces. Practice shows that, by virtue of their specific nature, the prices of products in the fuel and raw material sector have the greatest spread of fluctuations in the capitalist market. Whereas prices of machinery and equipment fluctuate 10-20 percent at the maximum, prices of raw materials and fuel can climb or fall several hundred percent, and sometimes even by a factor of 10 or more.

A significant export component of energy sources and raw materials is traditional for our country with its extensive natural resources. Of course the Soviet Union is not the only exporter of these products among the industrially developed countries. For example, the United States exports 80-100 million metric tons of coal annually (that is almost 4 times more than the largest coal exports from the USSR in the middle of the last decade). British exports more than 80 million metric tons of crude oil, which is twice as much as Kuwait; Norway sells around 30 million metric tons of oil, which exceeds the figure for Algeria. The West European countries obtain considerably more natural gas from the Netherlands than from the USSR. We sell 30-35 million metric tons of iron ore, Australia sells over 80 million metric tons, Canada 30-40 million metric tons, and Sweden around 30 million metric tons. In our annual exports of more than 20 million cubic meters of commercial timber and sawn timber, we are roughly on a par with the United States for this indicator.

But the fuel and raw material component in the overall exports of all the industrially developed countries is small; it does not exceed 10-20 percent. This component totals more than two-thirds in our exports to the capitalist market. On the other hand, our component of machinery, equipment and other finished products -- which is the most stable as regards the caprices of market conditions -- is still too small. In 1985, for example, machines, equipment, and means of transport totaled only 9 percent of overall exports from the USSR to the nonsocialist countries.

This component is very small primarily because the capitalist countries stubbornly protect their markets from Soviet machinery and equipment by discriminatory tariff and political trade barriers. It is very small also because the best Soviet scientific and technical achievements are still not properly reflected in it. It is true that in 1986 the proportion of equipment in our exports increased by several percent, but this occurred because of the reduction in the fuel and raw materials component due to the aforementioned fall in prices. The task is to make the proportion of machines and equipment more substantial, as a result of which exports as a whole would be less dependent on market conditions.

The very rapid renewal of the export structure -- an increase in the proportion of finished products and a decrease in the proportion of fuel and raw materials -- is one of the most pressing trends of all our economic activity.

The 27th CPSU Congress noted in the report "On the Basic Guidelines for the USSR's Economic and Social Development for 1986-90 and the Period Through the Year 2000": "We need primarily to change the raw material thrust of exports and increase the share of the processing industries. Of course, this requires time but we must get the work under way right now in the 12th 5-Year Plan. It is necessary to orient ministries, associations, and enterprises toward building up the country's export potential and raising the quality and competitiveness of machines, equipment, and other finished products."

The restructuring -- already started in the country -- of the economic mechanisms, including all foreign economic activity, is also opening the way to the more successful resolution of these tasks.

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions adopted in August 1986 open up scope for displaying socialist efficiency and enterprise in the world market. These are the resolutions: "On Measures To Improve the Management of Foreign Economic Relations" and "On Measures to Improve the Management of Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation with Socialist Countries" (the texts of the documents were published in EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA No. 4, 1987).

The radical improvement of foreign economic relations includes not only improving the quality and technical standard of Soviet exports and making them more competitive, but also imposing very strict order on the consumption of currency reserves and the utilization of imports. These are essentially two sides of the same coin. The available reserves here are evidenced by the mere fact that a considerable amount of uninstalled imported equipment in our country lies around like a dead weight through the fault of a whole range of sector ministries, foreign trade organizations, and production enterprises. This was reported in EKOMOMICHESKAYA GAZETA No. 33, 1986. The imported equipment becomes outdated and the term of its guarantee expires. It is necessary to exercise special control over every installation under construction and every unit of uninstalled equipment.

Today the interests of foreign economic activity resolutely demand improved competence and initiative on the part of cadres working in this area. Communists in ministries, departments, enterprises, and associations have a special responsibility -- this was discussed with Leninist principledness at the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum. M.S. Gorbachev noted in the reports he delivered:

"The implementation of large-scale measures to restructure management and the economic mechanism in the country opens up broad opportunities to improve the work of party committees and organizations, step up party influence in all areas of society's life, and implement a political approach to all the problems under examination."

BRIEFS

HIGH-YIELD POWER PLANT -- The Soviet Union is planning to build on the River Lower Tunguska in Siberia a power plant of unprecedented capacity: 20 million kilowatts, our reporter was told at the Ministry of Power Engineering. The implementation of the project will require unique equipment because the plant will stand in high mountains in a locality where winter frosts are particularly severe. The area already has several big power plants, whose capacity ranges from 4 to 6 million kilowatts. The electricity they yield is used in the development of Siberia's mineral wealth. [Text] [Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 21 Feb 87 LD]

LACK OF PREPARATION FOR MAJOR SPRING FLOODS NOTED

PM021339 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[A. Kleva dispatch under the rubric "Reporting With a Purpose": "On the Eve of a Flood"; last six grafs are unattributed comment]

[Text] Poltava, Sumy, Kharkov -- Such a thing has never happened before in the northeast Ukraine: Poltava, Sumy, and Kharkov Oblasts are covered with a minimum of 40-60 cm of snow, which is lying in a thick layer on frozen earth. Specialists estimate that every hectare of agricultural land is covered with at ieast 1,000 metric tons of snow, and in the forests and gullies the figure is even higher. With a sharp rise in temperature -- and this is expected here in a couple of weeks time -- the still-frozen earth will not be able to absorb such vast quantities of moisture. From being the farmer's ally, water is threatening to become his enemy.

There are more than 5,000 lakes and reservoirs in the region. Varying in potential and actual volume and in the quality and reliability of their dams, they will have to feed through their systems at least three times their maximum capacity. As the result of a small flood in spring 1980, when 1 in 10 artificial reservoirs collapsed, farms incurred losses, found themselves without water, and took a long time to make up their reserves.

It was already clear back in January that, once the huge volumes of snow began to melt, the rivers would burst their banks and rise by several meters. The thickness of the ice would inevitably lead to blockages. In every oblast several hundred villages and settlements could be threatened by floods. The situation is most serious in the Severskiy Donets basin: here disaster is hanging over 243 population centers, where approximately 65,000 people live. In Kharkov alone, 1,283 homes are threatened with flooding. The same fate awaits Balakleya, Gotvald, and Izyum.

It was back in the depth of winter that the first warning signals were given and appeals made to coordinate efforts to withstand the still-dormant elements. The oblispolkoms took decisions aimed at combating the approaching disaster in an organized way. But their effect proved minimal.

"Two weeks after that I visited the big Pechenezhskoye reservoir," E. Lukashenko, first deputy chairman of Kharkov Oblispolkom, told us. "Talking to personnel responsible for the reservoir and -- particularly alarming -- for its sluices gave me the impression that the oblispolkom decision had not reached there. Quietude and indifference prevailed."

Few places have cleared water conduits and roads, and only halfhearted attempts have been made to clear fields and approaches to bridges. And despite the fact that, with the very first rise in temperature, people's cellars and enterprise yards have begun to flood, no one seems particularly concerned and everyone appears to be hoping that nature will be merciful.

The oblispolkom recently returned to this vital issue. It transpires that even V. Kulinich, director of the hydrometeorological observatory, is not in possession of even the scantiest information -- he has no idea of the possible consequences of this hitherto unprecedented flooding. One in two reservoirs has not been surveyed, the ice situation around hundreds of bridges has not been explored, and the municipal servicess administration has not even found time to begin breaking up the ice floes and protecting artesian wells and major water supplies. [paragraph continues]

Hardly any storm drains have been cleared, and the sandbagging of danger areas has not even begun. Fuel, food, and livestock feed are not being taken to areas subject to partial flooding....

And there is more. In the flood area of this oblast alone, more than 190,000 metric tons of powerful toxic chemicals are in storage, and large manure storage units and liquid manure tanks -- sectors requiring particularly reliable engineering protection immediately --are still unprotected. The oblast planning commission, the civic defense headquarters, and voluntary societies are all remaining on the sidelines: No one knows what exactly their role is to be in the battle with the elements, where the victims and livestock from hundreds of farms will be evacuated to, what amount of construction materials will be needed by the oblast to repair the inevitable damage, how many pairs of rubber boots will be needed per village....

The Kharkov oblast flood commission has 26 launches, 1 amphibious craft, and 2 helicopters at its disposal at present.... With this selection of equipment and such "organization," defeat could prove inevitable.

I visited Poltava, Sumy, a number of farms -- hardly anywhere did I find concern or see any preparations for the imminent floods. There is still time, and the battle could be won as long as everything is planned down to the smallest detail.

Disaster can still be forestalled and averted -- if it is countered immediately by teamwork and determination. Then perhaps forced courage will not be needed.

[Unattributed comment begins] After this report had already reached the editor, the Kharkov Oblispolkom took a decision on additional measures regarding the movement of floating ice and melt waters in the oblast -- a specific document filled with serious concern.

Almost simultaneously, an interview appeared in the local press describing the situation in the most glowing terms: Emergency teams had been formed and were operating, armed with excavation equipment and floating facilities.... On the same day I telephoned the oblast agro-industrial committee and asked which of the committee's senior members was responsible at this point in time for round-the-clock duty in accordance with the oblispolkom's decision? What was being done? They put me through to A. Miryanov, head of the land reclamation group.

"It is difficult for me to give you any information," he said. "We have only begun the organizational preparations. But actually you have the wrong section -- we have an oblispolkom commission here. Please ring the land reclamation and water resources administration."

I did so. I got through to chief engineer A. Fesak:

"Although today is Saturday, our people have visited various rayons. We will have accurate information by Monday. There is no need for alarm: We were promised warm rain and, as you can see, we are getting wet snow. The frost could even come back...."

"Could" -- a week after urgent discussion of this extremely important issue in the oblispolkom, and when spring has already arrived and the temperature is above freezing!

PREPARATIONS FOR FLIGHT TO PHOBOS CONTINUING

LD0922102 Moscow International Service in Polish 1400 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] In the Soviet Union preparations are continuing with the participation of a number of countries for flights of space satellites in the direction of Phobos. The international project envisions a multifaceted familiarization with this satellite of Mars, both from flight and directly from its surface. The new expedition by automated stations will be the first step on the road to the exploitation of asteroids. Yuriy Kolesov, scientific worker of the USSR Academy of Sciences, tells us why we are so interested in these small heavenly bodies.

[Begin Kolesov recording in Russian, fading into superimposed Polish translation] [passage indistinct] Thus, the satellites of Mars, are, as it is appropriate to judge, the first asteroids that showed themselves to human eyes. For they were photographed from quite a close distance by space cameras. Thousands of relatives of Phobos and (?Deimos), reminding us, as we now know, of gigantic paving stones of irregular size, orbit around the sun in groups and individually between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. As is currently felt, they are small planteoids, the remanants of the original [word indistinct] of bodies from which, through impact and union, the Earth, Mars, and Venus were formed in their time.

Asteroids, similarly to meteorites, are divided into iron and stone, metal, and those containing coalsubstances. [words indistinct] Few people now doubt that meteorites are fragments of asteroids. It is known today that the two most common metals, iron and nickel, constitute almost in their entirety the substance of metal meteorites which do not often fly toward us from the asteroid belt. So, the [word indistinct] meteroite that fell in 1947 in the Soviet Far East contained 94 percent iron and around 6 percent nickel. Even a relatively small metal asteroid contains millions of tonnes of iron and nickel. This is an amount not even possible in comparison with the ores of these metals on earth. If it is additionally taken into account that even the richest ores contain, in the best case, more than 50 percent pure iron and just a few percent of nickel, then we will understand that done or even two small asteroids could satisfy the raw material needs of all the metallurgical enterprises of our globe. Miner-cosmonauts could supply our industry not just in iron and nickel. Certain fragments of asteroids that have fallen on Earth have a high cobalt, [word indistinct] platinum, iridium, gold and [word indistinct] content. These are elements rare on Earth and thus very expensive. And so, from an economic point of view, the transportation of substances from space can be fully justified, and flying mines will be found closer to earth.

It is assumed that in the near future intensive construction will begin in space around Earth. The building of huge solar electric power stations, scientific stations functioning for long periods of time or constantly, multitask space stations and large rocket-telescopes will consume a lot of various materials. The supply of these from earth to the space building sites will be complex and costly. There will thus remain only one solution -- the exploitation in orbit of materials of extraterrestial origin. And in the first row of [word indistinct], the products of the substance of asteroids. It will be necessary to put the asteroids into orbit around the earth. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS ATTEND MEETINGS

Sokolov Addresses Aktiv

LD282111 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] Today a meeting took place in Moscow between the leading membership of the USSR Defense Ministry and the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy with the women's aktiv. Marshal of the Soviet Union Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and USSR defense minister made a speech. It was noted that the main efforts of women's councils are directed at shaping a high degree of public and political maturity and an active stance in life amongst the members of families of servicemen. They do a lot to resolve the important task nationwide of the heroic spirit and patriotic education for the rising generation.

Chernavin, Koldunov Speak

PM271117 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 February 1987 First Edition carries on page 2, under the headline "Komsomol Conferences: More Initiative," a 200-word report by correspondent Commander A. Pilipchuk on an undated Baltic Fleet Komsomol conference, which states that "Admiral of the Fleet V. Chernavin, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Navy, participated in its work." This is followed by a 200-word report by correspondent Lieutenant Colonol V. Gavrilenko on an undated Moscow Air Defense District Komsomol conference, which states that "Chief Marshal of Aviation A. Koldunov, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of Air Defense Forces, addressed the conference."

GENERAL LIZICHEV VISITS CUBA FOR WORKING VISIT

For Cuban media coverage of the visit by Army General Aleksey Dmitriyevich Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Army and Navy, including a tour of Havana and talks held with members of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, see the 3 March Cuba section of the DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

KOLBIN ADDRESSES CENTRAL ASIAN AKTIV MEETING

PM271619 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 87 Second Edition p 3

[Own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Ladin report: "More Professionalism and Activeness"]

[Text] Red Banner Central Asian Military District -- A meeting of the district's party aktiv has been held here. A report was delivered by Colonel General A. Kovtunov, district commander. The meeting participants discussed the question of the results of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and the tasks of commanders, political organs, and party organizations in further restructuring organizational and political work and stepping up its influence on improving the personal responsibility of Communists and all military cadres for the fulfillment of their party and service duty.

The meeting was addressed by G. Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee.

BULGARIAN ARMY PAPER CITES OGARKOV, MAKSIMOV

AU241506 [Editorial Report] Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian on 23 February devotes a 1,000-word editorial on pages 1 and 4, as well as approximately 2,400 words of other articles, materials, and photographs taking up the remainder of page 4, to marking the 69th anniversary of Soviet Army and Navy Day.

The 1,000-word editorial, illustrated on page 1 with photograph of Soviet tanks and helicopters, reviews the glorious history of the Soviet Army from the October Revolution through World War II to the present, noting that "built up as a new type of military organization and educated in a spirit of deep devotion to the socialist homeland and to the ideas of friendship between peoples, it has passed along a heroic path to become the most powerful army in the world." The editorial stresses that the Soviet Army is known by mankind as the "liberator of the peoples," and that the Soviet soldier, defender of the oppressed, has become a symbol of peace and progress." At the present time, the editorial notes, "the aggressive policy of the United States and NATO obliges the Soviet Union, together with the fraternal socialist Warsaw Pact states, to give serious concern to maintaining their defensive capacity at the required level," and quotes Gorbachev's statement in his speech to the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee Plenum that "the Soviet armed forces... reliably guarantee the people's peaceful labor and the country's security." The editorial concludes by stressing the Bulgarian people's gratitude to "the liberating army which also brought freedom to us," and our firm resolve and steadfast desire to stand alongside it for all time, both in peace and in war."

The materials on page 4 are headed by a 150-word extract from Gorbachev's January 1987 CPSU Central Committee Plenum speech on the vital defensive role entrusted by the party to the Soviet Armed Forces, and a 200-word unattributed general commentary stressing the full battle readiness of the superbly equipped Soviet Army and Navy "to strkie a crushing counterblow against any aggressor" at this period "of radical change in the development of Soviet society."

The above items are followed by two articles by Soviet Army leaders. The first is a 350-word article by Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay Ogarkov entitled: "Soviet Military Doctrine is Defensive." Ogarkov reiterates: The Soviet military doctrine has always been based, and is based, on the principle of counteractions, that is defensive actions. The USSR regards nuclear attack as the most grievous crime against humanity." He continues by stressing that "at the foundation of Soviet military doctrine lies the position that the Soviet Union will not be the first to use nuclear weapons." At the same time, Ogarkov warns that no effort is being spared to equip and train the armed forces in order to maintain their fighting capacity, "opposing the aggressor not only with passive means and methods, but also with the capacity to deal crushing counterblows against him and to rout him under any conditions of a changing situation."

The second 300-word article is by Army General Yuriy Maksimov, commander in chief of the Strategic Rocket Forces and deputy minister of defense of the USSR and is entitled: "Any Attempts to Attain Superiority Will Be Parried." Maksimov begins by expressing his concern regarding "the persistent strivings of the United States to achieve a decisive military superiority over the Soviet Union and to obtain the capacity to make a first nuclear strike with impunity." It is the principle aim of the Strategic Rocket Forces, notes Maksimov, to prevent his very eventuality.

With regard to the Strategic Defense Initiative [SDI], Maksimov acknowledges that "the vulnerability of the Soviet intercontinental ballistic missiles [ICBM] will increase when the 'Star Wars' program is put into application." [paragraph continues]

He notes that the space-based offensive components of SDI "will have the shortest flight times to their targets as compared to land-based ICBM's." He continues: "Our task is to find a reliable means for counteracting these fighting platforms in outer space. These means, as has already been made clear, will be much cheaper than the space strike weapons. The Soviet Union will not have to make a big sacrifice. We see real ways of preserving the invulnerability of our ICBM's both on the ground and in flight, even when the U.S. SDI is deployed."

In addition to uncaptioned photographs of Soviet troops and military hardware, the paper also carries on page 4 a 400-word report by Lieutenant Colonel A. Belikov from the "Red Banner Northern Caucasus Military District" on a mountain attack exercize, and a 1,000-word account told by Waldemar Janowicz Uszacki, an 80-year-old Civil War veteran, to Khristo Rodopski and entitled: "The Rout of the Black Baron's White Horde." Rodopski heard the tale, which concerns a skirmish that took place in the Civil War between the Whites and troops of the young Red Army near Khakhovka, not far from Orel in the RSFSR, at a chance meeting with Uszacki in the museum in Khakhovka.

STALIN, ZHDANOV CITED IN PROFILES OF COMMANDER

PM271655 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 February 1987 Morning Edition carries on page 3 under the headline "He Was a Born Military Leader" a 1,500-word V. Shcherban article to mark the 90th anniversary of World War II Commander Marshal of the Soviet Union L.A. Govorov's birth. Shcherban notes that after Govorov applied for CPSU membership, "A.A. Zhdanov informed him that by decision of the Central Committee Govorov had been accepted without having to undergo the candidates' probationary period." Reviewing Govorov's career, Shcherban states that he "did virtually the impossible" as commander of the Leningrad front, but that "when I.V. Stalin informed Zhdanov of Govorov's candidacy for the post, the news was greeted unenthusiastically. It was only in time that Zhdanov would say: 'There could probably not have been a better commander for the Leningrad front than Govorov.'"

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 February 1987 First Edition carries on page 6 under the headline "By the Walls of Leningrad" a 1,300-word article by Army General N. Lyashchenko on Govorov's career. Lyashchenko says he first met Govorov at a 1943 conference where he was accompanied by "A.A. Zhdanov, secretary of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) Central Committee and member of the [Leningrad] Front Military Council." Whereas Govorov is described as taciturn and severe, "Zhdanov loved to joke and laugh." When Lyashchenko tells them that he is having trouble with his cadres, "Govorov and Zhdanov looked at each other: We will help you!" The remainder of the article details individual maneuvers commanded by Govorov during 1944.